



THE INDEPENDENT

Nº 8,842

MONDAY 7 JULY 1997

WEATHER: Mostly dry

OR 45P 40p

MEDIA+

**THE WOMAN WHO
TAMERES AUTHORS**
WITH 12 PAGES OF APPOINTMENTS

BACK PAGE

**SPACE JAM
UNLOCKED
ON MARS**

20-PAGE SPORT PULL-OUT

**SAMPRA'S
KING OF THE
CENTRE COURT**

Marchers trample peace hopes

David McKittrick and
Michael Streeter

The already slender chances of an early IRA ceasefire appear to have been dealt a blow yesterday's huge security operation to push the controversial Drumcree Orange march through a Catholic area of Portadown.

Although the scale of actual violence in initial response to the move was towards the lower end of what had been anticipated, the Government's relations with Irish nationalists have been seriously damaged by the episode.

While the exact extent and duration of the damage may take some time to emerge, it is already clear that the episode has added a further layer of mistrust to the nationalist and re-

Inside

Balancing two evils;
Heroes' welcome
for Orangemen;
The day that the
innocence died;
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page 14

publican attitude towards the
Labour government.

The recently elected British
leader, Bertie Ahern, described
it as a sad day for nationalists,
while Martin McGuinness, of
Sinn Féin, declared himself
"absolutely disgusted".

While in the short term the
Government has averted an-
other Drumcree stand-off
which could have pitted its
entire authority against extreme
loyalists, the corollary is that
there may well be a price to pay
in terms of the postponement
of any new IRA cessation.

The operation mounted to
escort 1,200 Portadown Oran-
gemen along the contentious
Garvaghy Road route entailed
one of the largest security op-
erations ever witnessed. More
than a hundred armoured ve-
hicles and up to 2,000 troops
and police were deployed to sa-



Tight security: Armed police and troops flank Orangemen as they march through the nationalist Garvaghy Road area of Drumcree yesterday.

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

The authorities appear to
have concluded that national-
ist resentment would be easier
to contain than loyalist anger.

Although a decision no
whether or not to allow the
march to take place was ex-
pected to be made on Saturday,
no announcement was made un-
til early yesterday, after the se-
curity force operation was in
place. Troops were sent to
Drumcree church, where Oran-
gemen hold their service,
with barbed wire and other
equipment in what appears to
have been a faint to mislead
Catholic residents into believ-
ing the march would be halted.

Troops and police then used
a combination of the element
of surprise, the cover of darkness
and sheer force of numbers to
hem in residents. The operation
remained in place from 3am un-
til around 2pm, after the silent
march of some 1,200 Oran-
gemen had passed along the road.

In the evening, shots were
fired at police on the Ormeau
Road in Belfast, scene of next
weekend's contentious march,
while vehicles were hijacked and
other disturbances started in the
north and west of the city and
in the towns of Armagh, Newry
and Newtownabbey. Police
warned motorists to stay away
from these areas.

A republican protest rally in
west Belfast was attended by
some 5,000 people.

The Orange Order, by con-
trast, commended Ms Mowlem
and congratulated its members
on their restraint. Ulster Union-
ist leader David Trimble, wel-
coming the outcome, said:
"That was originally a Protest-
ant area. The Protestants have
been driven out of it and the Or-
ange Order not going down
there is equivalent to saying 'yes
we have been driven out'. Their
attitude is they are not going to
be driven out of what is part of
their own town."

In an incident in Armagh, a
hospital worker was dragged
from his car and attacked by a
gang of masked men who had
spotted an accordion on the
back seat. It is reported that they
forced him into a nearby park
and ordered him to play the in-
strument while they threw
stones at him.

British car prices dearest in Europe

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

Britain has gone from being
cheapest place in the EU to buy
a car to the most expensive,
in the space of just 12 months,
according to research to be pub-
lished later this month by the
European Commission.

Despite its uninspiring title,
the Commission's *Report on
Car Prices* has become the bible
for consumers who are prepared
to travel to Belgium, Spain or
Portugal to save up to 30 per
cent on UK listed prices. In the
process, many have to put up
with a plethora of paperwork
and occasional obstruction from
manufacturers and dealers who
are anxious to play down any
price differences.

The report will show that the

UK is the most expensive EU
country for 38 out of 50 popu-
lar models and the highest
priced since the survey began in
1992. Portugal maintains its
position as the one of the
cheapest, whereas last year it
was neck and neck with the UK.

In France, customers can take
advantage of an unprecedented
price war following a disas-
trous slump in sales in 1996.

The survey began in 1992 after
complaints that manufac-
turers were obstructing buyers
from ordering cars abroad. Under
European law, UK con-
sumers can order right-hand
drive cars on the continent.

Behind the UK's turnaround
is the 20 per cent rise in the
value of the pound, a source of
delight to tourists abroad and
despair to exporters faced with

collapsing profit margins. Last
week, sterling nudged 10 francs
on the money markets for the
first time since 1991 and is fast
approaching 3 Deutschmarks.

The EC report shows a big
price gap between the most ex-
pensive and cheapest coun-
tries. Typically, buyers prepared
personally to import their car
can save up to 30 per cent on a
"supermini" or medium-sized
hatchback.

The comparisons in the table
do not tell the full story, because
they include local taxes which
vary widely. Under a tax anomaly,
consumers can buy cars in any
country free of local taxes and
instead pay taxes wherever
the vehicle is registered.

It means British buyers get a
double benefit, enjoying low
prices abroad, coupled with
some of the lowest car taxes in
the UK of any EU country. The
Portuguese prices, for instance,
would be cheaper still if local
taxes were excluded, while lux-
ury cars in Portugal are taxed to
virtual extinction. Against the
savings, customers have to off-
set the cost of changing sterling
into a foreign currency and the
sheer hassle of buying abroad.

James Rosenstein, of Euro-
pean Automakers, the industry
association, said the figures
were another plank in the ar-
gument for a single European
currency. "If there were a sin-
gle currency a good deal of the
differences would disappear."

Minister refuses to ditch £2m oil shares

Christian Wolmar and
Anthony Davies

Lord Simon, the former BP
chairman and now a govern-
ment minister in the Lords, has
refused to divest himself of a
large shareholding worth over
£2m in the oil company.

Sir David Simon, as he then
was, gave up the chairmanship
of BP and a salary of £874,000
to be the unpaid minister for
competitiveness in Europe with
the Department of Trade and
Industry soon after the election.

According to BP's latest
records, he holds 247,091 shares
worth a total of £2.15m.

Lord Simon has promised not
to trade in the shares, nor to be
involved in any matters con-
cerning BP, but the Tory oppo-
sition is not satisfied. John
Redwood, the shadow President
of the Board of Trade, told *The
Independent* he had received
Commons assurances last week
that all was well. "We now
learn that all is not well," he said
yesterday.

The official Whitehall rules,
"Questions of Procedure for
Ministers", say: "A minister
should, upon assuming office, re-
view his or her investments and,
if it seems likely that any of them
might give rise to an actual or ap-
parent conflict of interest, they
should be disposed of."



Lord Simon: Former chairman
of BP refuses to sell shares

wood of the detailed arrange-
ments that had been made in
avoid a potential conflict of in-
terest. "He [Lord Simon] has
placed the generality of his
shares in blind trusts. He has
not, however, disposed of his
shareholding in BP but has un-
dertaken not to trade these
shares before January 1998, at
which time the position will be
reviewed," she said.

"He is not involved in any of
the DTI business which covers
BP, nor does he receive any pa-
pers which have a bearing on BP.
I understand similar arrange-
ments are in place at the Treas-
ury to keep Lord Simon apart
from decisions in areas relating
to his previous employment
and that Lord Simon did not

contribute to the pre-Budget
decision-making."

But Mr Redwood said that if
Lord Simon had been blocked
from any involvement in such
matters, it was baffling that
Mrs Beckett, his boss, had not
known of that arrangement
when questions had been asked
in the Commons last Thursday.

It is also a matter of Opposi-
tion curiosity that Lord Simon
should have put some shares in
"blind trust" - under which he is
not informed of investment
changes or the state of the por-
tfolio - while retaining his more
significant BP shareholding.

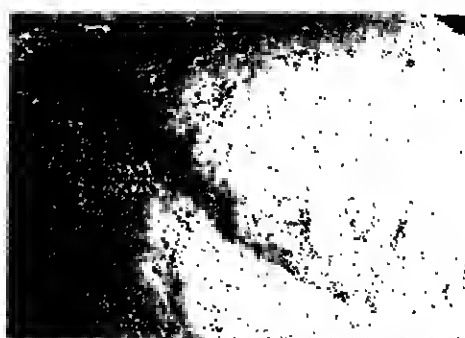
Mr Redwood told *The Inde-
pendent*: "It is most important
that a Labour Party which
campaigns so strongly on an an-
tislavery ticket should be seen to
be observing every letter and
every dot of Questions of Pro-
cedure for Ministers."

"He should have sold his
shares at the beginning; it's the
only conceivable thing, to be ab-
solutely safe."

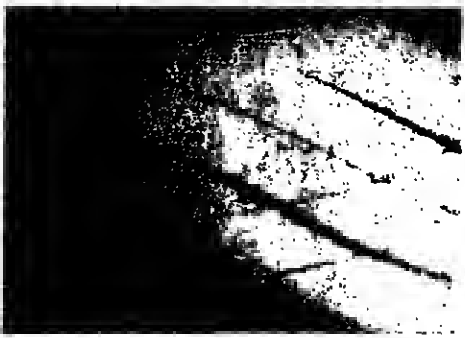
As for the idea that Lord Si-
mon was going to be excluded
from areas covered by his BP in-
terest, Mr Redwood said: "I'm
going to ask exactly what he is
doing."

"Because BP is such a large
part of the British economy,
with so many interests in dif-
ferent fields, it could be quite
difficult for him. I'm not at all
satisfied by this answer."

Labour's secret cuts, page 6



NET CALL



BAR CALL

WINE & SPIRITS
POLCO, VINTAGE COGNAC GOLF CLUB, COGNAC FINE
HARLEY ROYAL RESERVE
J&S CORNELL TEST MATCH V AUSTRALIA, OLD TAPPAZ
HARVEY GLOBE PALACE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW
BATHURST GOLF CLUB, SILVERSTONE
GLAMORGAN GOLF CLUB
COVENT WINE
BLENHEIM INTERNATIONAL TEST DAY EVENT
BATHURST HARTLEY GOLF

Veuve Clicquot
CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

Where to drive the hardest bargain

	UK	IN EUROPE
Mitsubishi Charisma 1.6	11,890	10,418 (Spain)
Toyota Corolla	10,794	8,071 (Spain)
Volkswagen Golf diesel	11,365	8,844 (France)
Volkswagen Golf petrol	10,980	7,281 (France)
Fiat Punto 55 3dr	7,627	6,351 (Portugal)
Ford Fiesta 1.2	9,945	8,813 (Portugal)
Ford Escort 1.6	12,540	11,652 (Portugal)
Nissan Micra	7,800	5,888 (Belgium)
Pugeot 106	7,985	5,924 (Belgium)
Renault Megane Scenic	12,985	10,175 (Belgium)

Prices in the table are in £s, translating advertised prices in Spain, France, Portugal and Belgium, including local taxes, into sterling using Friday's tourist exchange rates.
Research by Agnes Severin.

Air-travel chaos looms
Business travellers and holiday-
makers face disruption at
Heathrow and Gatwick this week
after talks aimed at averting a
strike by British Airways cabin
crew collapsed.

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news

significant shorts

Warning after 'bus surfing' leaves boy critically ill

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents is urging young people to give up a "bus surfing" craze which left a 13-year-old schoolboy critically ill after a near-fatal collision on Friday night.

Accident investigators believe Birmingham Anthony Ball was holding on to the double-decker bus which he was "surfing" on rollerblades when he lost his grip and spun into the path of a van travelling in the opposite direction.

Roger Vincent, a spokesman for RoSPA, called on parents to warn their children to steer clear of the potentially fatal "bus surfing" craze amid concerns that it might spread to other areas of the country.

"There is no way children should be rollerblading on the roads - it is a crazy thing to do. Traffic and this sort of thing don't mix," Mr Vincent said.

Waterstone's to open in small towns

Bookseller Waterstone's yesterday announced plans to open 50 small stores in towns across the country, creating up to 400 new jobs and giving the chain the UK's biggest branch network.

Towns from Altrincham and Bury St Edmunds, to Avy and Yeovil will see the new 2,500 sq ft shops, which will carry a full range of titles.

Alan Giles, Waterstone's managing director, said: "I am very confident that this major new initiative will transform the quality of bookselling in smaller towns, in the same way that Waterstone's has successfully opened in larger towns and cities throughout Britain and Ireland."

Fertility expert sued over private work



A leading fertility expert is being sued for allegedly making "secret profits" from his pioneering work.

Dr Simon Fishel, who was part of the Cambridge team behind the world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, is accused of earning enormous sums abroad instead of focusing on his work at a non-profit-making university research centre.

Nottingham University has issued a High Court writ

seeking damages for breach of contract against Dr Fishel (pictured), who is also accused of setting secret passwords to stop staff at the university from accessing key computer files.

Dr Fishel, who strongly denies the allegations, said: "I have dedicated my life to helping infertile couples."

Claire White

Wreck holds gold worth £50m

A salvage team was yesterday preparing to start uncovering a wreck believed to contain gold bullion worth up to £50m at today's values. Two pumps to be used to clear the sand covering the remains of the packet ship *Hanover*, were being put in place off Cligga Point, near Perranporth, Cornwall, ready to begin work today. The square-rigged *Hanover*, which sank with all hands in storms in 1763 while en route from Portugal to Falmouth, was believed to be carrying gold coins then worth £60,000.

Lottery jackpot roll over

For the second Saturday in a row there were no winners of last night's £3.5m National Lottery jackpot. The money will roll over to Wednesday's draw. The winning numbers were: 1, 4, 11, 36, 43, 44.

people



ASCOT IN THE BALKANS: Sarajevans enjoying a race meeting yesterday, near the city's airport, scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the civil war. Until yesterday, the only race had been one of survival, from one end of 'Sniper's Alley' to the other (Photographic: Danilo Krstanovic/Reuters)

Humble origins of the £5bn man from the Woolwich

Around 2.5 million people may today feel a debt of gratitude to John Stewart. As chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society he has steered it to a £5bn stock market flotation, giving its investors an average shares windfall of £2,000.

But as the City toasts Mr Stewart (right), whose annual pay packet is thought to be worth around £500,000, he may reflect on a career that has taken him from a grimy tenement block that might as well have been a million miles from the Square Mile, via that most old Labour of jobs - that of a trade union official.

Indeed, his meteoric rise through the Woolwich ranks belies his humble past. He is the son of a motor mechanic and shop assistant and grew up in a Edinburgh's tough Gorgie district. In 1977 he started out at the Woolwich's Glasgow office, making tea and opening post.

Now, 20 years later, he is the youngest chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society. He was appointed last year when Peter Robinson was unceremoniously turfed out, under a cloud of allegations relating to abuse of expenses.

It was thought that an impressive record in launching new ventures for the Woolwich won him the top job. "I am a bit of a workaholic but a happy one," he says. "I thoroughly enjoy my job, but I must say I'd give it up in a flash if I was offered a sailing job. The trouble is I can't find anyone deft enough to offer me one."

Mr Stewart's love of sport cost him his education. The



Hearts fan won a place to study chemistry at Heriot-Watt University when he was 17, but he dropped out with ambitions to become a scuba diver. However, it soon dawned on him he wasn't going to make a career from deep-sea diving.

"I had to get a job and I learnt ever so quickly that hard work really does pay off. The penny dropped - the harder I worked, the better I got on," he said. "And what's more I enjoyed it."

Stewart knows the Woolwich intimately. In Glasgow he did every job in the branch, which gave him "terrific confidence".

In 1983 he first came to prominence within the Woolwich as chairman of its Independent staff association, a registered trades union.

"I probably learnt more in that job than any other. I learnt a lot of people skills and the fine art of negotiating, which has been invaluable," he says.

Two years later, Stewart took a gamble and moved south of the border. "When I started in England I didn't really have a job as such. But I had a few ideas and was given a few opportunities."

The father-of-two now lives with his wife, Sylvia, in Bromley, Kent, and has a sailing boat moored at Medway.

"The flotation has been hard work and a long time coming but this is no excuse to sit back and relax. We're going to be busier than ever."

Alexandra Williams

briefing

HEALTH

Choosing where to live can mean better care in old age

If you plan to grow old, choose carefully where you live. Having the right postcode could mean the difference between comfort and calamity if dementia sets in.

The amount spent per person on people with dementia ranges from £572 in one West Midlands health authority to £1,801 in a Home Counties health authority, according to a survey.

The size of the variation, disclosed by the Alzheimer's Disease Society (ADS), makes a mockery of the notion of a health service providing equal access for all its citizens.

One London health authority spends 23 times more on day care per person with dementia in one of the three boroughs it covers than another. In the top spending borough, the figure is £650 per head, compared with £28 in the lowest.

Harry Cayton, chief executive of ADS, said: "This begs serious questions about the overall accountability, transparency and equality of treatment in what is a publicly funded service."

Reasons for the variations include the higher costs of delivering services in rural areas and the higher costs of property in the towns. The report says these do not explain differences between authorities in similar areas.

Jeremy Laurence

FINANCE

Unchecked bills mean lost billions

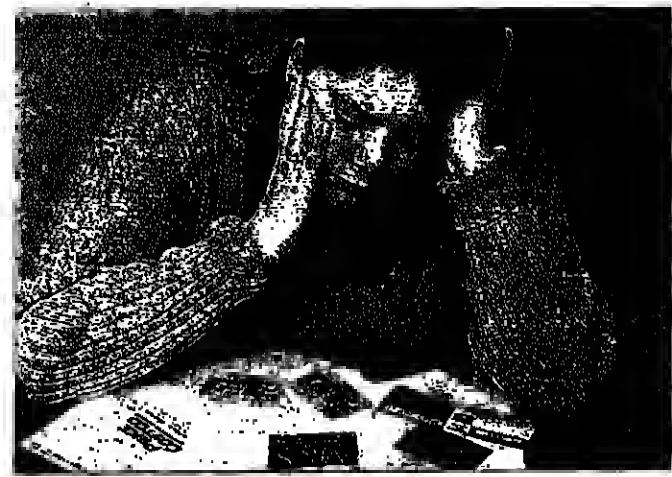
People are losing billions of pounds a year because of "irritable bill syndrome" - failing to check change or bills - a survey said today. Fewer than half of us (48 per cent) regularly check change, while just 44 per cent check money from cash machines.

Only 35 per cent of people check bills and receipts, although marginally more - 57 per cent - regularly check bank and credit card statements, said the survey, in which 1,000 adults were interviewed.

Behavioural expert Sue Keane blamed the results of the survey, which was carried out on behalf of Direct Line Insurance, on high-pressure lifestyles. "We are often too busy or stressed to make the time to benefit from sorting out everyday administration," she said.

Although people seemed casual about money, 91 per cent of those who were questioned said they were furious if they felt they had been ripped-off.

The most common irritation - shared by 52 per cent of people - was being overcharged for refreshments at concerts or football matches.



ADVERTISING

Devilish car campaign backfires

An advertisement for the Citroen Saxo car triggered an avalanche of complaints from viewers angry at its devil imagery, according to a report published today. A staggering 241 viewers complained about the advertisement - nearly double the number of protests over Rover's controversial commercial featuring a hostage exchange.

The Rover advertisement was pulled from the screen after a public outcry and claims that it trivialised the experiences of hostages, and was insensitive to the feelings of relatives of two Britons held captive in Kashmir.

The Independent Television Commission said that more than 50 parents had complained that the Citroen advert had terrorised their children. The advert features evil spirits flying around a gloomy factory as a Citroen car is transformed from a standard to a sports model.

As the change is completed, the driver's face "morphs" into that of the devil, with a voiceover proclaiming: "The new Citroen Saxo VTS is a Saxo, but with a bit of the devil inside it."

The ITC said "a significant" number of viewers had complained they found references to the devil offensive and others said they believed the advert could encourage road-rage.

It upheld complaints about the scheduling of the advert and ordered that it should not be shown before 7.30pm.

WORK

Pay inequalities at local level

There is no North-South divide in levels of pay - only severe inequalities within different regions, a new study claims today. A study by the Low Pay Unit found low-paid workers all over Britain, with women in all areas consistently earning less than men.

The findings showed the proportion of low-paid, full-time employees in the North ranged from 13 per cent in Middlesbrough to 24 per cent in Hartlepool. In the South-west, it ranged from 8 per cent in South Gloucestershire to 27 per cent in Cornwall.

The study concluded that "average pay leagues" and talk of a "North-South divide" disguised the real inequalities which existed within local areas - and between the sexes.

While Greater London was seen as a high-earning area, the lowest-paid women there earned £120 a week less than the overall average for women and men working full-time in Wales.

HOLIDAYS

Stay at home to beat stress

Two out of five people who go on holiday argue with their partner and almost a quarter are struck down by illness, according to a survey by Barclaycard, published today.

Holidays rank high on the stress rating scale, and the main causes of rows include spending money, forgetting to pack something and the state of the resort, it said.

Despite looking forward to their holiday for months, 42 per cent of people end up arguing with their partners when they finally go away. Nearly a third worry about running out of money, and more than 40 per cent of the 2,000 people questioned said they actually looked forward to going home at the end of a trip.

"Indecision about what to do on holiday, paying too much attention to the opposite sex, children, bad navigation and drink also cause arguments," said the survey.

Claire White

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria	.....	£54.00	Windsor	.....	£5.00
Belgium	.....	£28.00	Italy	.....	£14.50
Canada	.....	£20.00	Malta	.....	£3.00
Cyprus	.....	£11.20	Norway	.....	£10.00
Denmark	.....	£12.00	Portugal	.....	£10.00
East Rep	.....	£12.00	Spain	.....	£10.00
France	£14.00	Sweden	£10.00
Germany	£14.00	Switzerland	£10.00
Greece	£10.00	USA	£3.00
Luxembourg	£10.00			

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Lord of the Skies dies - or does he?

He was known as "the Lord of the Skies", a Mexican peasant who outplayed the Cali cocaine cartel at its own game and ended up with an estimated \$25bn fortune. His rival tried often to kill him but in the end he died, his family said, during plastic surgery to alter his appearance to elude the law.

Amado Carrillo Fuentes (right), 42, described by US anti-narcotics agents as the most powerful drug lord in the Americas, died of a heart attack on Friday while being operated on, under an alias, in a Mexico City hospital. Or did he?

While Mexican anti-narcotics agents confirmed his family's version - some viewed the body - US officials and many Mexicans wondered whether the most-wanted Mexican had used a lookalike cadaver to fake his own death and disappear from view.

If it was a hoax, it was pure Hollywood. Limousines carrying well-dressed businessmen, apparently drug lords, pulled up outside his mother's home in the town of Sinaloa in the northern state of Sinaloa after the body was flown home. They kissed his mother, left wreaths and drove off.

There was also speculation that he had been discreetly assassinated by a rival cartel. He had escaped several attempts, once leaping from a bathroom window in a Mexico City seafood restaurant as off-duty policemen hired by a rival riddled



the place with machine-gun fire and killed four of his nine bodyguards.

If he really died, US agents predict a bloody turf war among rival cartels and repercussions among corrupt local, state and even federal Mexican officials.

Carrillo Fuentes headed the so-called Juarez cartel, based in Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas.

After at first taking only cash from the Cali cartels for smuggling their cocaine across the border, he muscled into the big time in the Eighties by by-passing the Columbians and buying cocaine directly from producers in Bolivia and Peru.

He won the nickname "Lord of the Skies" when he bought a fleet of French Caravelle airliners, removed the seats and shipped tons of cocaine from Colombia to airstrips on his ranches before moving it across the border into the US.

Phil Davison, Mexico City

Fears for aid workers kidnapped in Chechnya

Concern was growing last night for two British aid workers kidnapped four days ago in the breakaway Russian province of Chechnya. The Foreign Office said there had been no contact from the armed gang which seized Jon James and his girlfriend, Camille Carr, last Wednesday.

They were abducted from the house where they were staying in Grozny by half a dozen masked men. Three people - including their two bodyguards - have been questioned by police.

A Foreign Office spokesman said last

night: "There has still not been any contact or demands. We have no idea who has got them. We are being very active but I cannot say how, it is too sensitive."

The couple, who are in their 30s, have been working in the region since April. The Foreign Office will not say what part of Britain they are from.

They were working for a local body known as the Centre for Peacemaking and Community Development, helping children who suffered from the 21-month conflict which ended last August.

سكزا من الاربعين



Hot dish: Clive Sharrocks, executive head chef at Smolensky's restaurant (left), shares a joke with Peter Wakera, his demi-chef de parti Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Thousands will be grounded after BA talks fail

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

Tens of thousands of business travellers and holidaymakers face severe disruption at Heathrow and Gatwick airports this week after 11th-hour talks aimed at averting a three-day strike by British Airways cabin crew collapsed yesterday.

The airline said last night that it would try to operate half its inter-continental flights from Heathrow, west of London, and one-third from Gatwick, West Sussex, after the action begins at 6am on Wednesday. Hardest hit will be European services from Heathrow, management conceded, of which only one-quarter of flights will operate.

The stoppage will also hit internal BA flights to Heathrow, although the airline said the dispute will not affect international flights from Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Domestic and European services at Gatwick are also outside the scope of the dispute. Union officials said last night that while BA might be able to get flights out, they would have difficulty getting aircraft back to Britain because overseas airport unions had promised to back the strikers.

The industrial action involves members of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU), but the company is hoping to maximise the emergency timetable with the help of non-striker, managers and contract staff. The minority union Cabin Crew 87, which has accepted the pay offer at the centre of the dispute, has nearly 3,000 members and a further 1,500 employees are not members of any union.

In the absence of a settlement, the TGWU intends to call further three-day strikes when this week's stoppage ends at 6am on Saturday.

Some industry sources believe that the company might today seek an injunction to stop the industrial action, possibly on the basis of an allegedly flawed strike ballot. Litigation may only serve to "prolong the agony" for BA, however. Preparation for strike-breaking flights and cancellations of advanced bookings have already cost the company tens of millions of pounds, according to some internal estimates.

Last-ditch talks yesterday at a Sussex hotel broke down amid mutual recrimination. The TGWU said that a 12-point peace formula which it submitted to management was dismissed after 10 minutes, while the company accused employees' representatives of "dragging the discussions backwards".

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said the union had no interest in the competitiveness of the business, did not recognise the need for change or for modern industrial relations. He claimed more cabin crew than anticipated had confirmed that they wanted to work normally during the strike.

A BA spokesman said the airline had no option but to implement contingency plans after the talks broke down after nearly five hours. Representatives of 9,000 cabin crew rejected an offer of an independent monitor to ensure that no one lost out from the pay package which the company has already imposed on stewards and stewardesses.

Another peace offer in a separate dispute involving BA ground crew has been put out to ballot, with the result due mid-week. The airline's airport staff, who have also voted for strikes, are protesting over a plan to sell off the company's catering business. Unions of officials expect the 1,400 employees of the division who are directly affected by the sell-off will reject the peace formula.

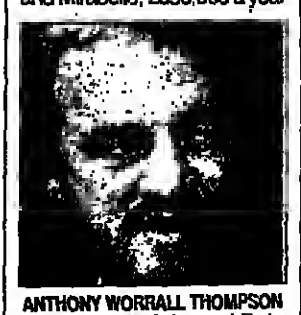
Bill Morris, the TGWU's general secretary, said the airline was behaving as if it "desperately needed the strike". The news of the talks' collapse emerged a few hours before John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, was due to deliver a keynote address to a pre-conference TGWU rally in Brighton, East Sussex.

Too few cooks spoil the broth

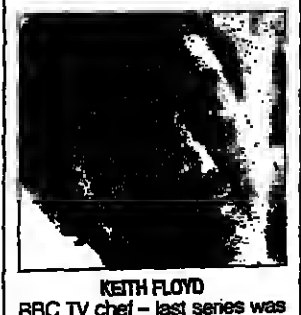
Top earners



MARCO PIERRE WHITE
Recently floated his company on Stock Exchange at £30m. Restaurants include Criterion and Mirabella: £350,000 a year



ANTHONY WORRALL THOMPSON
Associated with Ménage à Trois, 190 Queensgate, Dal up and about to open Wex in west London: £250,000-300,000 a year



KEITH FLOYD
BBC TV chef - last series was on food of southern Africa: £8,000 per demonstration. Piled Loyd Grossman charges £3,500

Kim Sengupta and Agnès Séverin

Those at the top are powerful and glamorous figures appearing on television shows and in newspaper gossip columns. But the fare is far more frugal at the other end of the business, and restaurants are having trouble finding new chefs.

The supply of cooks is drying up just as the demand for them has reached a post-war high. Foody Britain is booming with customers displaying an ever-increasing appetite for the rich variety of cuisine on offer from the Pacific Rim to Peru.

Restauranters and recruitment agencies have launched a range of new initiatives to counter the problem, including a pilot scheme to retrain unemployed inner-city teenagers, starting new apprentice schemes and cooking schools, and recruitment drives on the Continent, Australia and in the United States.

The opening of large-scale "eating emporiums" like Sir Terence Conran's Mezzo, Bluebird and Ousglino's, and ventures by others, such as the People's Palace and the Zoo Tower in London, has also had the effect of sucking staff dry from the already shallow pool. The Bluebird, for instance, needs 120 chefs, while the Mezzo has a complement of 100.

Recruitment agency Portfolio International, of south-west London, is working in conjunction with the Lennor Lewis College in Hackney, east London, which is funded by the WBC world heavyweight boxing champion, for the "Opportunities on a Plate" project to train and place local young men and women in the kitchens of establishments in London's West End.

It is being backed by leading chefs and restaurant groups including Stephen Bull, the Pelican Group, Smolensky's, Catering and Allied and One Whitehall Place.

Gordon Ramsay, the two Michelin star-winning chef at Aubergine, is considering opening up his own catering school. He also believes the apprentice system should be widely expanded because many of the existing college courses do not adequately prepare students to meet the arduous task of surviving and succeeding in commercial kitchens.

A student coming in straight from catering school, he said, can get as little as £130 a week. He added: "We have a situation where the pay is low, it is going to take up to 10 years before they qualify as experienced chefs and thus it is essential they get a thorough training

at the beginning. My partner and I at Aubergine are seriously considering opening a school."

Jeffrey Dymond will start his two years' apprenticeship, after having been unemployed for four years, during which time he was only offered jobs washing-up. "I was told the news two days ago. It's a start for me. They have given me a great help to get where I wanted to be, as a chef," he said.

For his part, Mr Ramsay began working as a teenager at Wroxton House Hotel, outside Stratford-upon-Avon, earning £50 a week. He later went on to work for Guy Savoy in Paris, where his wage of £90 a week was £10 less than his room rent, the deficit being made up by a bank loan. A stint with three Michelin star-winner Guy Robecq followed before his return to fame in London.

Fellow two Michelin star-holder Michel Roux, of La Gavroche, was 16 when he started his four-year apprenticeship in Paris in 1976, working for Alain Chapel. His pay was then £20 a month. He said: "I do pay my junior staff more than £130

"The restaurant trade has become a victim of its own success... as a result demand for chefs is rising"

a month. However, if something like the minimum wage comes in, then a lot of establishments will face major difficulties. This is undoubtedly very hard work. You put in incredibly long hours, and you go home very late at night smelling of food. But it is a screening process, and ones who are dedicated get to the top."

Stephen Bull, owner of three acclaimed London restaurants, added: "In a way, the restaurant trade has become a victim of its own success. Business is booming, and as a result demand for chefs is rising. When you get the huge Conran complexes coming in, it obviously adds to the problem. Allied with that there is a sizeable drop-out rate from catering schools. A lot of students seem to be getting on them without really thinking out the long-term."

Sir Terence Conran is the patron of the Butler's Wharf Apprentice School adjacent to his complex of restaurants. The school's other backers include the Café Rouge and Chez Gerard.

More than 650 students are due to pass out this year, and some of them will get employment in Sir Terence's restaurants. But the group still needs to search abroad to find chefs.

Conran restaurants' PR manager, Victoria Parnis said: "The fact is that chefs are held in far higher regard in places like Australia and the US than they are over here."

"Over there it is treated as a serious profession, and we need to instil that concept in this country. Until that is achieved, we are going to have problems."

A bitter taste for Egon Ronay as he goes to battle with his publisher



Ronay: Issued High Court writ

Kathy Marks

Egon Ronay, the food critic whose name is synonymous with gastronomic excellence, has two priceless assets: his taste buds, which he once insured for £250,000, and his reputation, carefully nurtured for most of a lifetime.

The latter, he believes, is now under threat from the company that owns the best-selling restaurant guides bearing his name.

A High Court writ issued by Mr Ronay against Global Infocom Ltd alleges that the company failed to pay promptly the inspectors who tour Britain filing reports for the guides.

Several were kept waiting months for their expenses and fees, according to the writ, with some owed more than £2,000.

Mr Ronay said yesterday that adverse publicity about the inspectors' plight had tarnished his reputation. "I feel that the credibility of the guides has been undermined and that it reflects poorly on me," he said.

"I have always been known for my reliability and integrity. I earn my living on the basis of my good name, and now it has been soiled. This is an unsavoury situation with a bad odour, and I wish to divorce myself from it."

The writ says that a report last

month in *Cuisine and Hotel-keeper*, the trade publication, suggested that the 1998 edition of the *Flagship* volume, *Egon Ronay's Guide to Hotels and Restaurants*, was in jeopardy because inspectors were refusing to visit any more establishments.

Mr Ronay founded the guides in 1956 and ran them for nearly 30 years. In 1985, he sold them to the Automobile Association, which in turn sold them to Leading Guides Ltd, now known as Global Infocom.

In a licence agreement, Global Infocom publishes the guides under Mr Ronay's name, but the licence reverts to him if certain conditions are breached.

He resigned as a consultant to the company in May.

Some of the inspectors have written to him, asking him to help them to recover money allegedly owed to them. They were recently paid their out-of-pocket expenses, he said, but as of last Friday were still awaiting their fees.

"This is all very depressing because the guide was my baby," said Mr Ronay, whose lawyers are still calculating the level of damages he is to seek. "I created it from nothing and it has become an institution."

No one was available from Global Infocom yesterday to comment on the writ.



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Drumcree confrontation

A harsh choice between two evils

Bitterness and hurt as Chief Constable allows Loyalists to march

David McKittrick recounts 12 traumatic hours on the Garvaghy Road

12.20am: Soldiers move in around Drumcree church, causing both Protestants and Catholics to assume the Orange march is to be stopped. A witness sympathetic to Catholic residents says: "We stood and watched them seal it off with barbed wire, dragons' teeth, sparks flying from welding. We said, God, they're not letting them through and we all went home."

3.30am: Residents are taken by surprise as scores of armoured vehicles and hundreds of troops and police suddenly saturate the Garvaghy Road in the darkness.

They accuse the Royal Ulster Constabulary of manhandling sit-down protesters; police say they were attacked with petrol-bombs and stones.

5.30am: Police systematically deal with around 100 protesters, carrying them away or pushing them back with riot shields. Daylight shows the police are wearing new flame-resistant overalls, boots and balaclavas, together with shin, thigh and arm protectors.

Groups of 20 police respond in practised unison to commands shouted by inspectors. Some missiles are thrown at them; in one of many angry incidents a man with dried blood on his head goes up to the police line and shouts, "Come on, use the baton, come on."

6.40am: By this time police have lined the Garvaghy Road with approximately 75 armoured Land Rovers. At the Churchill Park housing estate flashpoint a second cordon of police and troops has been established 70 yards into the Catholic estate.

This means the mass of Catholic residents is not within a stone's throw of where the parade will pass.

7.40am: The army, using large Saxon troop-carriers and several hundred men, has established two further cordons within the estate. Small entries leading to the Garvaghy Road are each manned by around a dozen soldiers.

By this stage the mood of Catholic residents is one of angry resignation: with the estate saturated movement is difficult and access to the Garvaghy Road all but impossible. Some



McKittrick: 'Your voice is not ignored. I understand your feelings'



Flanagan: 'A simple, stark choice in ... balancing two evils'

go off to bed as the tension eases for the moment.

8.10am: The forward cordon of Land Rovers and police remains on alert but the main contingent, lining the Garvaghy Road, relaxes.

Some drink Lucozade, one takes off his shoes, a few warm food on small gas cookers; others take off their flak jackets and other equipment and sleep on the ground or on their riot shields. Small change which has fallen from the pockets of those carried away by police lies on the road; no one picks it up.

10am: Since residents cannot reach their church at the top of the Garvaghy Road, Father Sean Larkin celebrates open-air mass against a background of an army vehicle cordon. He says they feel anger, hurt, humiliation and depression but insists they must respond "with vigour and non-violence".

Asking the congregation to shake hands as a sign of peace, he himself walks over and shakes the hands of two soldiers.

12.45pm: Residents congregate in readiness for the Orange parade. Some bottles and missiles, including golf balls, are thrown at police lines by youths. Stewards attempt to stop them. Residents stage a noisy protest, beating the ground with dustbin lids, blowing whistles and hanging saucepan lids with sticks.

1pm: The cacophony reaches a crescendo as around 1,200 Orangemen pass by. They march silently and briskly, six abreast. Many look straight ahead, not even glancing through the police lines towards the jeering residents. Occasional missiles are let fly but none reaches the parade. Two residents who have penetrated the police cordon hold up posters and shout "Bastards" and other abuse at marchers and police.

1.20pm: The parade having passed safely by, more missiles are thrown at police who are now in the process of withdrawing from the area. Male and female stewards link arms to push the stone-throwers back. A chant of "No ceasefire" goes up from a section of the crowd.

As troops and police carry out a phased withdrawal from the housing estate and move along the Garvaghy Road, they come under increasing attack from young stone-throwers. Although stewards attempt to stop this, the throwing is greeted with an increasing volume of cheering, which appears to encourage the attackers.

Police and troops reply with a dozen or more plastic bullets to fend off the throwers.

They eventually depart from the scene leaving the estate and the Garvaghy Road strewn with debris.

3pm: Disturbances break out in nationalist districts of Belfast and elsewhere.



Sign language: Residents of Garvaghy Road confronting a British soldier involved in the security operation which protected the Orange marchers

Photograph: PA

The day Blair's government lost its innocence

It will go down as the day the Blair government lost its innocence. Having basked for two months in the post-election contentment of a people wearied to their bones with 18 years of Tory rule, it now finds that in one part of the United Kingdom at least, it has deeply alienated at a stroke a large section of the community.

From 9am yesterday, when the Royal Ulster Constabulary's Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan announced that the Portadown Orangemen could walk down Garvaghy Road, it was threatened with a dangerous draining of confidence among Northern Ireland nationalists.

This may not be permanent and it was certainly, given the impossibility of pleasing both sides in the summer marching season, inevitable that one or other of them would feel betrayed by yesterday's agonising decision on the Drumcree march. But that doesn't make it any less painful, particularly for Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, whose boundless energy, openness and sheer personal likeability had been beginning to disarm potential allies on both sides of the sectarian chasm.

The reason that it took so long to reach the decision was that neither she nor Mr Flanagan gave up hope until the weekend that the local Orangemen might be finally persuaded to seize the moral high ground by establishing but then waiving their right to parade down Garvaghy Road.

This had been the course urged on them in public by Robert McCartney, the independent Unionist MP for North Down - as well as in private by at least one or two senior Orangemen. And in a context in which the Garvaghy residents' coalition - which is led by Brendan MacCormack, once jailed in connection with terrorist offences - was unwilling to shift its ground, this seemed the only hope.

Late on Friday night Ms Mowlam took the unusual step of travelling with Adam Ingram, one of her ministers, to an Orange hall in Lurgan to try and persuade 150 local officers of the order to take that course.

By all accounts she warned them bluntly that a decision to go ahead risked playing into the hands of Sinn Féin. The next few days will tell how far that warning was correct.

Once that effort had failed, however, it was left to Mr Flanagan to decide which was the least dangerous course on public order grounds. Constitutionally she could have banned the march, thus overruling the advice of both Mr Flanagan and Lieutenant Rupert Smith, the General Officer Commanding. According to government sources, the advice



DONALD MACINTYRE

was not only that there was a danger of sectarian murders of Catholics by loyalist paramilitaries if the march was stopped, but also every likelihood of an increasingly unworkable stand-off at Drumcree by Orangemen. It was just such a stand-off which caused the then RUC Chief Constable, Hugh Ammery, to reverse his decision to reroute the march last year.

In the end Ms Mowlam felt she had no choice but to act on that advice. She did so after regular contact during the past few days with Tony Blair.

She expressed optimism yesterday that the new Parades Commission, due to be operational by next summer, will somehow afford a fresh start to the quest for a solution to the now annual marching crisis. There is much scepticism about this - though the commission will at least take into account in its deliberations the "third side" in Northern Ireland - those who want freedom from trouble.

In the meantime, as Ms Mowlam knows better than any one, her most urgent task is to rebuild confidence among nationalists that democratic means offer them the best chance of lasting self-respect.

Minister was in Orange Order

Adam Ingram, Northern Ireland security minister, was a teenage member of the Orange Order, it was disclosed in Belfast. It will feed nationalist suspicion of government bias but there were similar mutterings from loyalists when Michael Ancram, a Roman Catholic, was appointed Conservative minister responsible for political talks.

The Orange Order is strong in Glasgow, where Mr Ingram grew up. The Northern Ireland Office said in a statement: "Thirty-four years ago, at the age of 16, Mr Ingram was a member of the junior Orange lodge for about a year. He has not been a member of that, or any other loyal orders, since." A Labour MP said: "Put it this way, he's a strong Rangers supporter." But Mr Ingram does appear to have broken tribal lore in one vital regard - he is married to a Roman Catholic.

Orange marchers receive soccer star welcome

Michael Streeter Portadown

The Portadown Orangemen who marched down Garvaghy Road were given a heroes' welcome of cheers and applause on a scale more associated with an FA Cup final.

As the Edgarrstown Accordion Band struck up an old army anthem leaving the Catholic area, the mood of several thousand

Protestants at their end of the street was in sharp contrast to that of the nationalists a few hundred yards away.

Georgia Liggott, 71, sporting a No Surrender Badge, said: "It is a victory. The police and soldiers have done us proud this year. They've done us proud." She added: "And we'll be down again next year."

A Portadown Orange Order spokesman regretted the need

for the security forces to clear the route, but said common sense had prevailed over the decision to allow the march.

The parade, which organisers said contained 950 people, all from the Portadown district order, had begun its return journey from Drumcree church at 12.50pm. It followed a service at which Portadown's Orange leader, Harold Gracy, urged members to show no triumphalism during or after the event. He warned the 350-strong congregation, which included the local MP and Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, and the hundreds more listening to loudspeakers outside: "If any one steps out of line this could be the last parade."

A message from Archbishop Robert Eames was read out, in which he praised those who had sought peace and reminded Or-

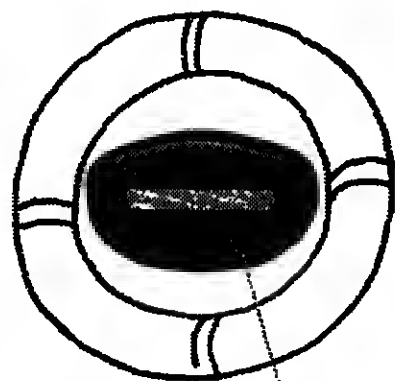
angemen of their responsibility. "With the eyes of the world upon you at this time I ask you to reflect the ethos of your culture with respect and dignity."

In his sermon the rector of Drumcree, the Rev John Pickering, said that at last year's events "the country nearly came to the brink of something awful".

He believed, however, that Drumcree could become a "turning point" for peace in Northern

Ireland if people accepted the message of Jesus Christ.

After the parade had moved on, the 19th-century blackstone church and its surrounds quickly returned to normal. But yards away in a largely Protestant area, a new banner gave a sombre reminder of the deep sectarian divide in the town, proclaiming: "There are no nationalist areas in Portadown - they are just temporarily occupied."



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Minister was in Orange Order

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news

Revealed: Labour's £5bn secret spending cuts

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

A hidden cut of £5.25bn has been imposed on next year's government spending plans, hitting every departmental budget from education and health through to social security and transport.

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrats' Treasury spokesman, revealed the swingeing cutback yesterday and said it also threatened to breach Labour's election pledges on policing and overseas aid - with fewer officers on the beat and yet another cut in aid.

The cover cut has been imposed by the decision of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of

the Exchequer, not to compensate departments for the impact of higher-than-expected inflation next year.

While he was eager to reap the dividend in terms of higher revenues - helping to slash public borrowing - he made no attempt to loosen individual departments' tight spending curbs.

A Commons library analysis of the result of that decision was given to Mr Brown last week in a note which said: "Because of the higher actual and forecast rates of inflation, expenditure in 1997-98 will be some £3bn lower at 1995-96 prices and expenditure in 1998-99 will be some £5.25bn lower."

The Commons library reinforced the point by saying that

the extra £1.2bn allocated to health by Mr Brown in last week's Budget would result in only an extra £410m spending, after the additional inflation had taken its toll.

"These developments make an absolute mockery of Gordon Brown's claims to be providing extra money for education and health as most of the extra money will be eaten into by inflation," Mr Bruce said in a statement.

"There is an irreconcilable tension at the heart of this Budget," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World this Weekend*. "The reality is that there is no ability for the Chancellor to claim that he is boosting key sectors of public expenditure, reducing

borrowing and generally improving the public finances with no pain." Departments, he added, had been left with "impossible" spending limits.

A Labour spokesman accused Mr Bruce and his party of "economic illiteracy", but the charge was endorsed by Andrew Dilnot, of the highly-respected Institute for Fiscal Studies. He told the programme: "The planned change in the real level of total public spending is much lower even than the extremely low figures that Kenneth Clarke [the former Tory Chancellor] was forecasting."

While the Conservatives might well be embarrassed by the fact that it was left to the Liberal Democrats to detect the

critical detail, some Labour MPs were also showing signs of private embarrassment that the left-wing had been so quiet about the Budget.

Ken Livingstone wrote in the *Sunday Telegraph* that while Labour MPs had worked themselves up into "a sub-organismic ecstasy", Mr Brown had missed his chance to take the steam out of an over-heated economy with a £10bn windfall tax and abolition of mortgage interest tax relief.

"The discipline of Labour's Left in the run-up to the election was absolute, but we cannot be expected to remain silent as we watch the Government sow the seeds of a future Labour general election defeat."

Shoplifters move in on art world

Ian Burrell

Professional shoplifting gangs are raiding commercial art galleries to steal bronze statues worth up to £50,000 each.

The gangs are using classic shoplifting techniques to distract gallery owners in a crime wave which has netted bronzes which are together valued at more than £500,000.

Insurance companies are alarmed. Mark Dalrymple, chairman of the Council for the Prevention of Art Theft, said: "They are nothing more than shoplifters who have realised it's much easier to go into a gallery and take something worth £25,000 than lift a load of gear from Marks & Spencer which is only worth £100."

The chief targets are galleries in the West End of London, but incidents have also been reported in Bath and Harrogate.

One gang is described in a security bulletin issued to art galleries as like "extras in the television soap opera *EastEnders* in the way they dress and act". Some carry long coats over their arms for camouflage and others distract gallery staff.

The security bulletin warns: "Some dealers' staff are too casual about unlikely customers entering galleries asking about the prices of bronzes or other works. These are individuals who are clearly not in the market to buy. They may well be in the gallery to steal."

In May two men were arrested when a Henry Moore



bronze was found in the back of a taxi which was stopped for a routine inquiry at a security checkpoint in the City of London. The statue, valued at £50,000, had been reported

stolen a month earlier from the Waddington Galleries.

Charles Hill, risk manager at art insurers Nordstern and the former head of the arts and antiques squad at Scotland Yard,

Soft touch: Galleries are being warned to tighten security after thefts by shoplifting gangs

Photograph: John Voos

suggested that bronze statues should be wired down or fitted with security alarms. He also advised galleries to fit closed circuit television cameras and to ask customers to hand in their coats and bags.

Galleries fear new security measures will hinder them in interesting the wider public in art. Neil Smith, secretary of the Society of London Art Dealers, said: "We are trying to educate people and trying to encourage people into galleries but how on earth do you combine that with the measures that are needed?"



Night on the gown: A red evening dress with shawl from the French fashion designer Torrente's autumn/winter collection in Paris yesterday

Photograph: Gareth Watkins

New targets for health

Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

Tough new targets for improving public health are to be set by the Government to reduce the health gap between the rich and poor.

Tessa Jowell, minister for public health, will today set out the Government's strategy for reducing health inequalities and announce plans for co-ordinating action across government departments to reduce the burden of ill health and disease. The targets, to be set out in

a Green Paper in the autumn, will replace those in the previous government's Health of the Nation strategy launched in 1992. Ministers believe that that strategy highlighted the problems but failed to focus action to remedy them.

The Health of the Nation strategy included 27 disease and population targets for reducing rates of heart disease, stroke and cancer as well as smoking, teenage pregnancy and suicide. A report last year by the National Audit Office said that it was failing on three

population targets - obesity, smoking and drinking, in which the trends were upward.

The new strategy is expected to retain the disease targets but have fewer population targets, each of which will be backed by a programme to ensure it is achieved.

Ms Jowell, giving her first major speech as health minister at a national conference organised by the health department in London, will also announce the Government's plans to re-examine the 1980 Black report on inequalities in health.

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Bowie: His Major Tom was addicted to heroin Photograph: Scottish Daily News

Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

Pop stars should be banned from using lyrics that glorify drugs and encourage people to take illegal substances, one of Britain's senior police officers has urged.

Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire and the Association of Chief Police Officers' spokesman on drug issues, wants the music industry to introduce a code of practice for what he describes as the "obscene" glorification of drug use.

His initiative follows a number of high-profile cases in which pop stars have sung about

the joys of taking drugs. In one case, a cover of a single, "Sorted for Es and Wizz", by the band Pulp, showed how to make a wrap, or envelope, to hold drugs such as ecstasy, cocaine and speed.

Song writers have always taken an unhealthy interest in drug taking, although most, such as the Beatles' "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" - which is a reference to LSD - have used hidden references. More recently, lyrics such as those by the rave group the Shamen's chart-topping "Ebeneszer Goode" - "Es [ecstasy] are good" - seemed explicitly to extol the benefits of drugs.

Mr Hellawell said: "The music industry is clearly churning out a lot of records, some of which glorify drug-taking. Some of which even tell young people how to prepare drugs and take them."

"It's almost a subliminal drip on the culture of young people," he added. He was concerned about songs that "encourage children to take drugs. I think that is obscene."

"I'm hoping that we can develop with the music industry some protocols which they can self-police."

"[This could include] developing a code of practice that they would not purchase, produce or sell records that glorify the benefits of drugs."

"I would like to think they could go only so far and not glorify drugs and will children to get involved."

He stressed that he did not want to stop all references to drugs, just those that encourage abuse.

He added: "I know drugs have played a part throughout the ages with art."

Mr Hellawell ruled out setting up a regulatory body, and instead hopes to meet representatives from the music industry to discuss the issue.

But the record industry yesterday rebuffed the idea. Sarah Roberts, press officer of the British Phonographic Industry

Can you ever take the drugs out of rock and roll? A top policeman thinks so



The Shamen: Topped the charts with Ebeneszer Goode - Es are good

(BPI), which represents almost all of the record companies in the UK, said: "We support drug education but we also support an artist's rights of expression."

"I don't think you would get any music company adopting that line because they will want to guard the artist's freedom of expression. The music industry is all about artistic expression."

She said the BPI already operates a voluntary code of practice for records that contain obscene language, under which the industry places a label on

offending products saying "For Parental Guidance".

Melissa Thompson, press officer for Pulp, said: "It would be a form of censorship. Also I can't think of many hands or songs that encourage the use of drugs."

In September 1995, Jarvis

Cocker, Pulp's singer, changed the graphics on "Sorted for Es and Wizz" after complaints about their including instructions on the sleeve on how to make a wrap for drugs.

Drugs have long been a source of inspiration for writers and had star billing - often un-

knowingly to parents - in some of the most famous songs ever recorded.

"Brown Sugar" by the Rolling Stones dealt with interracial sex and touched on Mexican heroin. In "Purple Haze", Jimi Hendrix made his excuses and kissed the sky - a typically

psychedelic reference in a song full of drug imagery.

David Bowie discussed drug addiction through his music. "Ashes to Ashes" featured Bowie's alter ego Major Tom who is friendless and alone, trapped in space and addicted to heroin.



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Cambodia slips towards civil war

Fighting rages across Phnom Penh as Hun Sen moves to oust rival

Matthew Chance
Bangkok

Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, reverberated to the pounding of rocket and mortar fire last night as the country was plunged into the prospect of a bloody coup d'état.

As rival army factions loyal to the nation's two vying prime ministers battled in a second day of intense street fighting, corpses were left strewn across the roads. 15 people have been confirmed dead and more than 50 injured. But casualties are likely to be far higher.

Air traffic and telecommunications links have been severed and all roads into Phnom Penh blocked as columns of tanks under the command of Hun Sen, the country's powerful "second" prime minister, rumbled through the deserted streets.

During the day Hun Sen's forces captured the headquarters of first prime minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC party and the prince's residence, both in the heart of Phnom Penh. Then in a radio broadcast last night Hun Sen declared that his rival was no longer prime minister, though he claimed he did not want the job. "The position is in FUNCINPEC's quota so let FUNCINPEC adopt a political figure," he said.

By late in the day, Ranariddh's forces still held ground to the west of the city and their Tang Krasang military base near the airport.

Prince Ranariddh's exact whereabouts were not known, but aides in Phnom Penh said he had left the country on Friday on the eve of the fighting

and was in France. At nightfall yesterday, puffs of black smoke from destroyed petrol stations were billowing over the city and crackling gunfire was heard punctuated with the dull thud of incoming shells. Mortar bombs rained down on the French Embassy, badly damaging its compound.

Thousands of people abandoned their homes for the relative safety of the countryside, carrying what little belongings they could manage on bicycles and carts. Many have been escaping the city by boat. Military officials in Thailand say their information is that a coup has taken place; they are preparing three military transport planes to evacuate Thai nationals once the situation has stabilised.

Hun Sen denies staging a military takeover. "The armed confrontation is not a coup, or an attack by one political party against another political party," Hun Sen assured Cambodians in last night's broadcast. But simmering tensions between Cambodia's co-premiers has been threatening to plunge the country into renewed civil war for more than a year.

Divided over most issues, the two are currently locked in a dangerous political stand-off over plans to induct defected Khmer Rouge guerrillas into the government army, and to allow the reviled leaders of the movement - with the exception of the hated Pol Pot - back into politics.

Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge commander who collaborated with the Vietnamese to oust the genocidal movement in 1979, remains a *bête noire* to members of the group. He opposes their integration, fearing that their well-trained and heavily armed fighters would join army ranks loyal to Prince Ranariddh, a former Khmer Rouge ally, and threaten his military superiority.



On the move: Phnom Penh residents fleeing fighting between Cambodian soldiers loyal to the country's feuding prime ministers Photograph: Reuters

Since the 1993 elections, in which Prince Ranariddh was returned to power, Cambodia has been in political limbo. Hun Sen, wielding considerable military muscle, was the loser at the ballot box. But to appease his Cambodian People's Party, he was offered a co-premiership in

an uneasy coalition. The next elections, after which only one prime minister can assume office, are due next year. Both men have been jostling for advantage in the tense and frequently violent build-up to the polls.

Last month, amid reports that a deal had been struck between the Khmer Rouge leadership and Prince Ranariddh, fighting between rival government factions erupted on the Phnom Penh streets. But the latest fighting is both more prolonged and severe, raising fears

that Cambodia has finally stepped over the edge of peace into war. A 60-strong group of expatriates, led by the Australian military attaché and including several Britons, crossed over into Thailand by land last night.

While Mr Karadzic's allies, who include the Serbian member of the three-man Bosnian presidency, Momislav Krajinovic, enjoy strength through numbers, Mrs Plavsic has the support of the international community, particularly the Americans, in recognition of her recent pro-Western positions and her desire to open Serb Bosnia to the outside world.

Karadzic allies weaken Bosnia's president

Andrew Gumbel

The shadow of Radovan Karadzic threatened to blow apart the political establishment in Serb-controlled Bosnia this weekend, as supporters of the former leader turned fugitive from international justice became locked in a bitter power struggle with the Bosnian Serb President, Biljana Plavsic.

Mrs Plavsic, who has denounced Mr Karadzic as the mastermind behind a mafioso smuggling ring that is in effect running the local economy, attempted to quell the hardliners last week by dissolving the Bosnian Serb parliament, where Mr Karadzic's friends hold a slim majority.

But this weekend her rivals snubbed her decision by convening parliament anyway and passing a slew of decisions weakening the president's powers and paving the way for a referendum to dismiss her.

While Mr Karadzic's allies, who include the Serbian member of the three-man Bosnian presidency, Momislav Krajinovic, enjoy strength through numbers, Mrs Plavsic has the support of the international community, particularly the Americans, in recognition of her recent pro-Western positions and her desire to open Serb Bosnia to the outside world.

She and Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, had a meeting last month which appears to have strengthened her resolve to crack down on petrol and cigarette smuggling that Mr Karadzic is believed to be running in cahoots with the Interior Ministry. Last week, Mrs Plavsic attempted to dismiss the Interior Minister, Dragan Kijac, only to be given the third-degree at a party meeting in Bijeljina.

Mexican polls threaten Zedillo's stranglehold

Phil Davison
Mexico City

In elections described by most Mexicans as historic, the country's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) looked like suffering major setbacks in yesterday's parliamentary, state and mayoral elections.

The PRI, which has held the presidency and controlled congress since the party was founded in 1929, was in danger of losing its parliamentary

majority for the first time as voters chose 500 new MPs. No single opposition party has the support to take over that majority but together the two main opposition parties could win enough votes to prevent President Ernesto Zedillo with a hostile chamber of deputies for the first time.

With only 32 new senate seats at stake - to create a larger senate of 128 seats - the PRI's control was not in danger but the party also faced close races in at least two of six state governorships

at stake. Both houses have traditionally been rubber stamps for the president and successive PRI governments.

Perhaps more important, symbolically, was the race for mayor of Mexico City, one of the world's largest cities with a population of more than 20 million, which the ruling party seemed bound to lose for the first time in the PRI's history.

Under pressure for democratic reform, President Zedillo was forced to hold mayoral elections for the first

time in 70 years. Previously, the president - always from the PRI for the past seven decades - handpicked one of his favourites for the job.

Cauhtemoc Cardenas, a social democrat and 63-year-old son of the Third President Lázaro Cárdenas, looked almost certain to become mayor by defeating both the PRI and the conservative National Action Party (PAN) candidates. Mr Cardenas was widely thought to have won the presidency in 1988 but believes

he was robbed through a computer fraud which gave a narrow victory to the PRI's Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Mr Cardenas sees the mayor's job as a stepping stone for another run at the presidency in 2000 when Mr Zedillo's six-year term expires. That means he would be mayor for only 20 months - from inauguration on 5 December - since he would have to stand down to campaign for the top job.

While his popularity has soared in the capital, Mr Cardenas's Party of

the Democratic Revolution (PRD) was likely to trail a distant third in yesterday's parliamentary and state governorship votes.

Despite Mexico's tradition of fraud, most people feel Mr Zedillo has done his best to create clean elections - perhaps for the first time - through electoral reforms. But Mexican and foreign observers spread out across the nation's ballot stations, which number more than 100,000, to watch for ballot stuffing or coercion.



Caught: A video shot of recruits staging a mock execution

Picture that shames the German army

Erik Kirschbaum
Reuters

Bonn - A German newspaper yesterday published pictures from an amateur videotape of soldiers staging mock executions and rapes.

A youthful recruit in a Bundeswehr uniform is shown holding a pistol in the mouth of another recruit in an image published on the front page of *Bild am Sonntag*.

Another photograph shows a soldier pretending to rape another recruit acting as a woman civilian, who is later shown being marched to "execution" by troops. Other pictures show enacts of "civilians" being tortured and hanging from trees. Images which revived memories of atrocities by Hitler's armies.

"There will be no toleration whatsoever of such perversion in the Bundeswehr," the Defence Minister, Volker Rühe, said in an interview with ZDF television. "I will do everything to see that those involved are disciplined and prosecuted. We will... take action against all those involved, even if they are no longer in the army."

The army said eight recruits on the film, made at Hammelburg training ground, near Würzburg, in April 1996, were no longer in the army. The Bundeswehr investigation also focused on officers who failed to report the incident which took place during a break in training for soldiers preparing for a mission in former Yugoslavia.

Lieutenant-General Helmut Willmann, the army's officer, said acts by "a handful of mentally disturbed individuals" could not besmirch the force's good name. "I am horrified by what happened at the Hammelburg training ground," he said in a statement released by the defence ministry.

The Greens criticised Gen Willmann for trying to write off the incident as an aberration, as officers knew of the tape for more than a year but said nothing about it. Jürgen Trittin, chairman of the Greens, said the incident was the latest of a series of unsettling incidents. There had been 53 reported incidents of right-wing extremism in the army in 1995.

Wolfgang Schraut, commander of Jaeger Battalion 571, where the incident took place, said the recruits could no longer be punished by the army because they had left. "We will not be able to get our hands on them any more," the officer said. "They were released from the army in an entirely normal fashion after completing their military service."

He said he did not know of the existence of the videotape until Friday and had learned that it was shown "on occasion in small circles among the comrades". Some 3,000 Germans are in the Nato-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia. Around 4,000 Germans took part in SFOR's predecessor, the peace Implementation Force but were stationed in nearby Croatia.

significant shorts

Gaullists put faith in Séguin as party leader

President Jacques Chirac's Gaullists elected the former parliamentary leader Philippe Séguin as their party chief, hoping the popular politician will lead them back from last month's election loss. Mr Séguin, 54, still a member of parliament and mayor of the eastern town of Epinal, told the Rally for the Republic Party he would open "a new and decisive page" for the Gaullists. He replaces the former prime minister Alain Juppé as RPR president and has been the party's *de facto* leader since leftist parties defeated Mr Juppé's conservative coalition in parliamentary elections on 1 June.

AP - Paris

Brazzaville racked by fighting

Mortar fire shattered the calm around Brazzaville airport as further cracks appeared in a cease-fire between the President and his chief rival. Spokesman for President Pascal Lissouba and former dictator Denis Sassou-Nguesso said on Saturday that both agreed to halt fighting which has raged for a month. But soon after fire resumed. A family of four were killed on Saturday when a mortar crashed into their home in a northern neighbourhood.

AP - Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

Trouble down on the kibbutz

There was outrage in Israel's kibbutzim after an article in a religious paper recommended that the collective farms be "wiped off the face of the earth." The article in the ultra-Orthodox *Kol Hashavua* said kibbutzniks "don't work very much," exploit cheap labour from nearby towns, take up land which they have been given for free and milk the state for money.

AP - Jerusalem

Lenin row takes explosive turn

The debate over burying Lenin's body took an odd twist when a Communist group claimed responsibility for planting mines in a statue of another titan of Russian history, Peter the Great. The group said the mines were a warning to politicians who want to move Lenin from his public resting-place on Red Square. Police defused the explosives without incident.

AP - Moscow

Mobutu men on the rampage

Remnants of the defeated army of the dictator Mobutu Sese Seko are terrorising the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Kasai province. Residents said they had wreaked havoc in Sankuru region, and urged President Laurent Kabila's forces to move in.

Reuters - Kinshasa

Move to halt ethnic slaughter

Pakistani police arrested 220 people suspected of involvement in ethnically motivated killings that have racked have Karachi. On Saturday two men who burst into a wedding reception and shot dead the groom, his two-year-old nephew and his brother.

AP - Karachi

Hizbollah kill Israeli soldier

An Israeli soldier was killed in fighting with pro-Iranian Hizbollah guerrillas in south Lebanon. In retaliation, Israeli planes launched three separate raids on Hizbollah positions in the area.

Reuters - Marjayoun



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international

Son of Zog makes grab for limelight

As the second round of Albania's general election passed off relatively smoothly yesterday and the victorious Socialist Party readied itself for office, just one major obstacle remained in the way of a smooth transition of power: the towering figure of the man who would be king, Leka Zogu.

The self-proclaimed heir to Albania's throne, a commodity broker from South Africa who stands 6ft 10in tall, started out as an eccentric footnote to the country's electoral process, but has ended up grabbing the limelight by means both fair and foul. His royalist party has wreaked havoc by claiming to have been cheated of victory in last Sunday's referendum on the reintroduction of the monarchy. His highly visible thugs have provoked bloodshed and a lurking sense of unease on the streets of Tirana.

The referendum was a quirky addition to the electoral pot conked up by Albania's belea-

Andrew Gumbel reports on a royal threat to orderly transition of power in Albania

guered president Sali Berisha. It is now clear, however, that Mr Berisha has used the would-be king to stir up trouble in the hour of his own defeat.

Mr Berisha's Democratic Party, and particularly the newspapers it controls, have given full credence to Leka's claims that he lost the referendum because of Socialist-inspired vote-rigging (the final result was 2-1 in favour of a republic). Some of the president's own bodyguards have been seen waving guns and shouting at Leka's public appearances.

When the monarchists opened fire on police during a bloody demonstration outside the central electoral commission

on Thursday, a man killed in the ensuing fracas turned out to be a member of the Democratic Party. When the man was buried on Saturday, a senior Democratic Party figure, Genc Polo, accompanied Leka at the funeral.

In theory, Leka and his family have no right to enter Albanian territory except by special invitation. In theory, too, the Democratic Party has no sympathy with their cause; indeed, Mr Berisha thwarted their plans for a visit back in 1993. But when Leka failed to leave the country when his 24-hour visa expired back in April, there was not so much as a squeak in complaint. The interior ministry has the power to expel him at any time, but the ministry is under the control of the Democratic Party.

Leka, whose father King Zog ruled the country for 25 years, 11-year rule in the 1920s and 1930s, is now based at a leafy villa in one of Tirana's more pleasant districts and goes

everywhere in the company of rowdy, heavily-armed security guards. His dress has included a blue safari suit and, during Thursday's demonstration, army battle fatigues. He has refused

to speak English in the presence of foreign journalists, even though it is his best language, and has responded with fury whenever reference is made to alleged arms-trafficking activities, for which he was forced to leave Spain in the late 1970s.

If he scored as well as he did in the referendum, it was as a symbolic counterweight to the two main parties. However,

most Albanians appear unimpressed by Leka himself and his programme to resuscitate his father's 1928 constitution. Fatos Nano, the Socialist leader now expected to become prime

minister, said Leka was welcome in Albania as long as he left the monarchy at the airport. But as the would-be king's violent rhetoric and behaviour continue, Mr Nano may have to think again.



Towering presence: Leka Zogu with mourning women during the funeral ceremony at the weekend for a man killed during clashes with police. Photograph: AFP

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Battle for a bigger Nato tests Solana's diplomacy

Javier Solana, the Nato secretary-general, faces the task tomorrow of launching it on its most important and most risky post-Cold War mission - expanding membership to the east. A Spanish physicist turned diplomat and foreign minister, he appears to have little doubt he will succeed.

He predicts the Madrid summit will be an overwhelming success. Nato leaders will finally name the countries that have made the grade to join in the first expansion wave, demonstrating ooc and for all the West's commitment to end Cold War divisions. "It will be quite a happening," he says.

Privately, however, he must be worried. In past days he has worked the diplomatic channels, calling alliance leaders, including Tony Blair, to try to avert a row at Madrid. The clash is looming over which countries should be declared winners in Nato's membership contest - or, as others are describing it, Nato's "oriental hazaar".

Washington, which wants just Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic in the first wave, is at loggerheads with France, which wants Romania in, and Italy, which wants Slovenia. How other alliance members will line up is not clear but political interests are certain to play a key role. The US has angered some Europeans by demanding a limit of three starters, largely because wider expansion would not be approved by Congress. Britain backs the US, while the Scandinavians want a place in the first wave for at least one of the Baltic states.

Estonia, which has qualified in many eyes, is bitter at the prospect of being left out at the start, and Romania says a decision to exclude it first time round would be "cynical".

The squabbling has also sent a signal of Nato weakness to Moscow. On the eve of Madrid, President Boris Yeltsin refused to attend, snubbing Nato a month after appearing to soften opposition to expansion by signing a co-operation pact in Paris.

Mr Solana believes a deal can be done which will please all sides. "We will have to be three members, four members or five." He also believes those left out in the first wave will be reassured by the promise of a second wave soon after. "Everyone must understand that Madrid is the beginning of the process, not the end. Sometimes people think this will be the end. But it is not true that those who don't get in this time will never get in."

But more is at stake than simply names on a list. The Madrid summit comes at a time when Western enthusiasm for bringing former Eastern Bloc countries in from the cold has been tapering off within Nato and the European Union.

Last month's Amsterdam summit on reform of the EU demonstrated its lack of vision

On eve of Madrid summit, alliance chief tells Sarah Helm that he is sure of success

and doubts about enlargement by failing to agree on changes to institutions which would accommodate new members.

Now many leading EU political figures are questioning whether Amsterdam achieved enough to allow enlargement to go ahead on time.

Divisions at Madrid would show that Nato too is in a quandary about how to manage enlargement, showing that it is more intent on its own squabbles than on achieving more high-minded objectives. One of Nato's prime objectives since Mr Solana took over in 1995 has been to secure a stronger role for the European arm of the alliance, a move boosted by France's declaration that it intended to rejoin the integrated military command structure.

But France has said it no longer intends entering the Nato core grouping, due to anger at refusal by the US to make key concessions. Mr Solana is finely tuned in to the transatlantic debate, having always been a strong advocate of securing a stronger European Nato defence capacity and a de-



Solana: Faces dispute over which countries are eligible

fence role for the EU. Today, however, he is determined to ensure nothing undermines Nato's passage to expansion. Questioned about its future role, given the demise of the Russian threat, he proffers the familiar vague warnings about deterring arms proliferation and defusing ethnic conflict.

But enlargement is clearly the objective for Nato which Mr Solana most fervently believes in. As a young socialist, Spanish membership of the alliance was anathema to him, but in today's changed world Mr Solana believes that "collective security" for the new democracies gives Nato's mission firm moral underpinning.

"Both the institutions of the EU and Nato have a responsibility to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Both have to open their doors - although at what velocity we will have to wait and see."

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arts

If you go down to the woods today

... you could be in for a big surprise. There's a growing number of venues to view sculpture when out taking a country stroll. By **Richard Ingleby**

Sculpture in its many and various forms has been a particular strength of British art over the past 50 years, but despite decades of international acclaim, it has taken a while for an awareness of these strengths to filter through to the people who plan the way that our country looks. Too often sculpture is only included in the equation if it has a municipal rather than aesthetic role, celebrating or commemorating something other than itself. There are exceptions, of course, namely Henry Moore and Eduardo Paolozzi, whose works crop up all over the place (in London alone there are 16 major Moors scattered from Stepney to Chelsea) but one has to search pretty hard up and down the country to find anything by Caro, Cragg or Deacon.

Happily, two recent events bode well for the future. The first was last week's unveiling of David Mach's *Train*, a giant brick locomotive emerging from the hillside by the A66 in Darlington. At 40 metres and 185,000 bricks, it is the largest single sculpture in the country, and thanks to a healthy collaboration between the public and private sectors it will now be a permanent crowd-pleasing fixture in the landscape of the North-east.

The second event, less lasting but equally encouraging in the long run, was last week's inauguration of Dulwich Picture Gallery's grounds as a show-case for contemporary sculpture. Their combination of large gardens with the backdrop of Sir John Soane's architecture makes it an obvious venue for outdoor exhibitions, and the choice of Stephen Cox for the first of these summer shows is an inspired one.

Cox, who increasingly looks like one of the finest sculptors of his generation, is also showing at Goodwood, 50 miles south-west of London, on the 20-acre estate which has over the past three summers established itself as a platform for the best of contemporary British sculpture. It is a fantastic concept, beautifully realised, and last weekend it celebrated its third birthday with the publication of a new volume devoted to the current selection of work and the unveiling of the most recent commission: a giant throne by David Nash, standing 17-feet tall and carved and oiled from a single piece of oak found on the estate. Oddly, given Goodwood's setting amidst woodland walks and glades, Nash is the only artist in this year's show who works with wood; the other 40 or so sculptures are in a mixture of bronze, steel, lead, various forms of stone and, in the case of David Mach, 3,600 galvanised wire coat-hangers and a Chrysler jeep.

Goodwood is the grandest of the outdoor venues that have appeared over the past few years, but it is by no means the only place to look at sculpture in the open air this summer. The New Art Centre at Roche Court, near Salisbury, first opened its doors, or rather its grounds, in 1990, initially by appointment but it is now open to everyone every day of the year. Like Goodwood, everything is for sale, at prices from a few hundred to a million pounds, but unlike Goodwood (which charges £10) entrance is free. It's a wonderful place with lovely views and trees and cows and, of course, some fine sculpture.

Its current exhibition concentrates, loosely, on the 1950s with work by Hubert Dalwood, Reg Butler and Bernard Meadows (although less than half a dozen of the 87 works on show are from that decade) and there is a good selection of more recent things, including Antony Gormley's *Learning to Be I*, a spindly figure well placed amid a grove of equally spindly trees; and a newly commissioned work by Alison Wilding. Among the other highlights, and there are many, is a simple stone monolith by Barbara Hepworth, pierced by a single hole with a painted pale blue groove and, when I visited in the rain last week, a streak of bird shit down one side — one of the hazards of putting art in the open air.

Birds were also a bit of a problem at Wimborne in Dorset, where the vicar's son spent the past month keeping clean the 52 sculptures that were scattered in the grounds of Deans Court, the staggeringly beautiful 18th-century house which recently hosted "Sculpture in the Garden 1997". Their favourite perch, by all accounts, was William Turnbull's bronze *Idol*, one of several distinguished works included by the organisers to add weight to an exhibition chosen predominantly from open submission, some of which, such as Maria Marshall's *Pod*, teetering on the edge of a long fish pond, and John Maine's *saunders* spiral on the main lawn, looked so good in the landscape that it's hard to imagine how the gardens will manage without them. The exhibition has just ended, but on this year's evidence the next biennial instalment, in June 1999, should be an event worth putting in the diary.

The Wimborne venture is one of a number of locally organised shows that have sprung up in recent summers in the gardens of English country houses. One of the best of them, "Fresh Air", in the grounds of the Old Rectory in the Gloucestershire village of Quenington, opened recently with a mix of established names, including Lynn Chadwick and Sophie Ryder, and numerous lesser



A spindly figure amid a grove of spindly trees: Antony Gormley's *Learning to Be I*, 1992, at Roche Court

knowns. Worth watching among the latter are the considerable talents of Emily Young, Craig Murray Orr, Richard Bray, and, if bridges are more your thing than sculpture, Richard La Trobe Bateman, designer and maker of a fine suspended footbridge.

Not surprisingly, these summer shows which rely on the efforts and enthusiasms of individuals, rather than on the resources of places like Goodwood or Roche Court, are less rigorous in their selection of work and less ambitious in their aims, yet there is something to be gained by their lack of professionalism. The great strength of the Quenington show, despite the undeniable beauty of the Old Rectory's riverside gardens, is its lack of grandeur. The scale is less imposing, more domestic, than at many of the more organised venues, providing a rare opportunity for sculptors to show their work in a way that relates to more ordinary living

spaces and ordinary lives. The subtext of the Quenington exhibition is that art can and should play a part in our everyday worlds.

As indeed it should wherever we live. It's a long way from the riverside gardens of Quenington to the side of the Thames at Battersea, but something of the Quenington spirit could come in useful in SW11 in the course of the next few years. Last week's announcement of the proposed redevelopment of the 35 acres of wasteland around Battersea Power Station (not to mention the even bigger Millennium site at Greenwich) seems like a great opportunity for a London exhibition, along the lines of the Sculpture show that dominated the South Bank during the 1951 Festival of Britain, celebrating the recent achievements of British sculptors.

The powers behind both schemes could do worse than take all those involved on a day trip to Goodwood to

see how genuinely inspiring sculpture can be once removed from the restrictions of a gallery or museum. Of course, the natural beauty of Goodwood, or anywhere with long vistas of trees and fields, will help any sculpture, whatever its merits, to look its best, but, as Henry Moore put it: "I would rather have a piece of sculpture put in a landscape, almost any landscape, than in the most beautiful building I know."

In the right hands, the open skyline of a Thames-side site could easily become an urban equivalent of the open-air experience and a lasting tribute to one of the great strengths of British cultural life at the end of the 20th century.

Sculpture at Goodwood is open Thurs-Sat, 10.30am-4.30pm (01243 538449); The New Art Centre, Roche Court is open daily 11am-4pm (01980 862244); 'Fresh Air', Quenington, to 18 July: Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm (0128 5750 358)

CLASSICAL Nigel Kennedy CBSO/Simon Rattle Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EMI's Centenary Gala Concert at Birmingham's Symphony Hall was framed either end by the music of Sir William Walton, with the rousing *Anniversary Fanfare* (commissioned for EMI's 75th Anniversary Concert) placed first and the most viscerally thrilling account imaginable of *Belshazzar's Feast* to close. Sir Simon Rattle conducted, and I doubt that anyone present had ever heard the more extrovert passages in *Belshazzar* (and there are many of them) sung with such burning intensity. When the choruses announced that the King was slain, the word "slain" was declaimed with such force that palpable shock-waves swept through the audience. The combined choruses of the Cleveland Orchestra and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra were joined by baritone Simon Keenlyside, and if the projected EMI CD of the event reproduces it with anything like accurate fidelity, then make sure to protect your speaker cones.

The concert opened with Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Four-Horned Fandango*, a sort of near-relation of Ravel's *La Valse*. The work opens among a plethora of reptilian string slides, with sinewy horn writing and much telling counterpoint. The real action starts among the lower strings, and thereafter, keyboards, strings and sundry gongs (a whole mass of them) create a sensual soundstage. Once reached and exhausted, the fandango itself subsides and the work ends, as it began, in a mood of mystery.

Audience response to the Turnage was more respectful than ecstatic, though the composer's appearance on stage prompted an extra burst of applause. Nigel Kennedy, on the other hand, inspired a pre-performance ovation. True to form, he shared a few light-hearted thoughts with us, then launched into an unscheduled "warm-up" account of the Prelude from Bach's Third Partita for unaccompanied violin. However, for most of us, Elgar's Violin Concerto served as the evening's musical "main course" and Kennedy's performance, although far from note-perfect, had a reckless, risk-taking quality that was quite exhilarating. His famous studio recording of the work was conceived — interpretatively speaking — more or less "by the book", but Saturday's concert performance was brazenly unconventional. Rattle's handling of the opening tutti was both strong and assertive, with loving portage of the second subject (particularly from the cellos) and impulsive gear changes. And although Kennedy eschewed some of the swooning slides that he had favoured years ago, his playing had gained in urgency, most noticeably in fast, double-stopped passages, which — in terms of speed — sometimes outstripped even Heifetz.

I was occasionally reminded of the great Albert Sammons, very occasionally of Menuhin, but more often than not the combination of Kennedy's hot-headed exuberance and Rattle's excitable conducting left an indelible mark on a score that, in the recent past at least, has fallen prey to some relatively tame interpretations. Rattle's previous Symphony Hall collaboration in the work, with Gidon Kremer, was ineffectual by comparison. If I had one reservation, it concerned the second movement, where Kennedy seemed to be pushing forwards and Rattle pulling back — although there were some breathtaking *planchettes* among the violins. The ghostly accompanied cadenza that dominates the third movement cadenza was superbly sustained and the closing pages, refreshingly lean. The audience went wild; more Bach followed (a beautiful reading of the first movement from the Third unaccompanied Sonata), and *Belshazzar* concluded the celebration.

Robert Cowan

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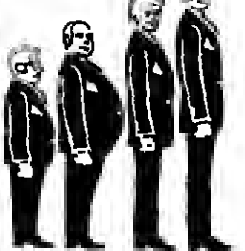
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Macca's big adventure

All of Paul McCartney's instinctive musicianship is being channelled into a symphonic poem, a work that is proving to be the biggest challenge of his career. He talks exclusively to Edward Seckerson about the journey towards the magnum opus



Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

Allen Ginsberg thought *Standing Stone* was a great title," says Paul McCartney, as if to confirm beyond reasonable doubt that it really is. He knows how to drop a ringing endorsement when he needs to. It's almost as if, after all the history, all the achievements, all the accolades, all the recognition, Paul McCartney – sorry, Sir Paul McCartney – still has to remind himself (and us) that, yes, he really is up there with the big boys, the history-makers like Ginsberg. The trouble with being a legend in your own lifetime is that you can play the just-a-Liverpool-lad-made-good charm all you like, but no one can ever forget you are, whether you remind them or not. And living up to who you are is always tougher than being who you are.

It was a bit like painting, where you hit upon a colour you don't mean to, and it's exciting

It's unlikely that you'll ever better "Eleanor Rigby", which you wrote when you were 21. So what do you do? You keep diving in. You dare. You've got this incredible anthology of daring to build upon. Life begins at 40, and again at 50. You take up painting, writing poetry, sailing, horseshack riding. You write an oratorio – *Liverpool Oratorio*. You relish the incongruity. You get slapped by the "serious" music press. But you've just got going and not knowing where you're going is half the fun. So you elect to continue "the awfully big adventure", only this time Carl Davis won't be holding your hand. You and your computer will work it out, with a little help from your friends (funny how there's a Beatles song title for every occasion). And while you're about it, you'll make another solo album (*Flaming Pie*) just for the fun of it. And some critics will say that it's old hat and others that it's sweet and true (which it is). But it's yours, and no one can write your music but you. So you keep writing, because all that really matters is that you don't wake up one day to find that the past

is past and you really are history. There is a lot of history riding on *Standing Stone*, McCartney's latest, and most ambitious – as in magnum – opus. One hundred years of EMI, for starters. It was they who commissioned him, four years ago. "I'll accept. 1997 will never come," he remembers thinking at the time. Wrong. He had begun to realise just how wrong when we last met, two years ago. By then he had moved beyond the contemplation stage, beyond what he calls "the white canvas" stage. Enthusiastic painter that he now is, he cites Willem de Kooning's ritual of writing his friends' names on the canvas to get over that dreaded moment where you make the first mark. Instead of names, McCartney wrote a poem. An epic poem. A Celtic poem. His own fantasy is *Liverpool/Trish*, so the fascination runs deep. In Scotland, he'd come to know one or two standing stones "person-

ally". Touching them triggered something inside him. Something mysterious. Not knowing what they were and where they'd come from – that was inspiring. And you thought "Mull of Kintyre" was passing fancy. So it began with a poem. Four stanzas. Four movements? A symphony? A symphonic poem? McCartney took advice. Symphonic poem was freer, more in keeping with his narrative. He started gathering some ingredients – tunes, motifs, ideas. From keyboard to cassette tape recorder – that was stage one. The London Symphony Orchestra were already on board. He had it on good authority that they were "a rocking band". There would be a chorus, but used instrumentally (a primitive vocalise à la *Dephens and Chole*). There would be light. Remember "Carnival of Light", a "sound collage" experiment dating back to his Beatles days? Well...

"*Liverpool Oratorio* came off the back of my normal music and stretched it a bit. This time, I wanted to go further, to acknowledge in my own way, as best I could, the end of the 20th century... There's a passage in the narrative, a sea voyage, which takes the form of a kind of Celtic jazz – except that it all goes horribly wrong and the everman figure at the centre of the piece – might that be McCartney himself? – finds himself lost at sea. So here it is: my first atonal music. One of my colleagues suggested that I might be putting in for my doctorate with this one!"

Of course, there is a hidden melody in all of this ("Some days" from *Flaming Pie*, actually). Ever since *Sergeant Pepper*, where McCartney and Lennon sought to mesh the experimental with the melodic ("A Day in the Life" might be seen now as a premonition of sorts), he has been, aching to go further. He has come to love the broader instrumental palette, the string quartet that becomes a symphony orchestra, the symphony orchestra that becomes whatever you want it to be. The knives will be out, of course. There will always be those who resent these "intrusions" from the pop world. What's he doing on our side of the border, they'll be saying. But McCartney is unbowed. He reckons he has earned the right to his sojourn. Who knows, he might just stay.

McCartney has never lost his innocence. His music is born of innocence, instinct, a primitive, untutored wisdom. His melodies don't get written, they just are. In the air, like they've always been there. So, to borrow an image from one of his songs, it's a wise fool – all-seeing, all-hearing, a "man of a thousand voices" – who inhabits the hull down in deepest Sussex where his studio is situated. The old windmill doesn't turn any more, but there is a timelessness about its presence. Inside the stone cottage that adjoins it is McCartney's musical nerve-centre, the engine-room of his many enterprises. Right now they're putting together the first mix of *Standing Stone* – the recording. As I arrive, producer John Fraser confirms that McCartney's ears did not deceive him, and that one note of a key violin solo in the first movement had somehow got displaced by a semitone between the computer print-out and the finished score. McCartney knew it as

soon as he heard it (he doesn't read music, but his ear is frighteningly keen). The question is, can he live with it? His note was quirkier. When he started working on computer, he found himself enjoying – even compounding – the "accidents" of the process. Sometimes the computer would add notes he was trying to erase and out would come these deep, dense, crunchy chords – which he later discovered were known as "tone clusters" in the trade. He grew ever fonder of them, these "little bunches of grapes" on the print-outs. He loved the noise they made and found himself deliberately subverting the process to achieve them. The sense of freedom was amazing. "From where I come from, if you're in C and someone plays C sharp, heads turn. It's a wrong note. Actually, it was a bit like painting, where you hit upon a colour you don't mean to hit upon and it's exciting and unexpected." Anyway, from out of these early experiments came a string quartet piece which he promptly handed over to the Brodskys to record. He called it *Inebriation* just to hedge his bets. "So, in a sense, fucking up was a great starting place for me."

Gradually, an A-Z of *Standing Stone* began taking shape in the computer. Getting it out of the computer accurately – matching up the cassette tapes and print-outs – required assistance. This is where the necessity for a back-up team became apparent. Enter composers David Matthews and Richard Rodney Bennett and saxophonist/composer John Harle. Harle was to be McCartney's "structural engineer", advising him on deployment of his material, on where and how he might expand it, make best use of it. He started to get excited by the process of development. He started listening to Beethoven symphonies. I was as if the melodist and the busker in him had finally found each other.

So here is how the piece began. In the beginning was a fireball hurtling through space towards its place in the universe. "So we've this void, and this ball of fire, and we know nothing – we don't even know what fire is. I needed to find a sound for that. Something primitive. I needed to rob the players of all their expensive tuition. So, for the first three minutes or so, we hear only open notes. No fingering. So we've got these open strings in divided cellos and basses kind of rubbing up against each other, creating this really earthy rhythmic friction."

And the composer is excitedly vocalising the moment, from pond-life, cell-life – to present day. The standing stone of the title is a symbol of our enduring humanity, a monument to EMI and a celebration of both. The final movement, prefaced in the score with words from the poem ("Strings pluck, horns blow, drums beat"), dances to the music of our time. Woodwind mechanicals are marked *musico*, slowing to *sognando* (dreamily). McCartney hasn't forgotten how I once gently mocked him for using fancy Italian terminology in his scores. "Look, I do it to be practical," he says. "It's the universal language in music. It may be a bit cooler to say

slow down a bit", but try explaining that to a Japanese orchestra and chorus. If they see *rallentando*, they know exactly what to do." Deuce. Playback of the final five minutes of *Standing Stone*. The bit single. A solo flute surveys the moors, and you'd know the source of its song anywhere. It's a love song, and it's McCartney through and through. And it builds and builds to this grand-to-be-alive climax and, in the middle of the control room, McCartney is punching the air like he's up there on that hill with the cameras rolling. Richard Rodney Bennett has done a great job turning the composer's

mix sounds well, but is, as yet, a "template". Final takes haven't been chosen, nor is "the whole picture" yet clear. The producer, John Fraser, thinks he might take a run in his car with a cassette, just "to get a perspective on it". McCartney's allegorical poem takes us from nothing –

short score into something truly filmagoric: "I let Richard go with this," he says proudly, hinting at other occasions when he'd found it necessary to rein him in.

McCartney was determined that, unlike *Liverpool Oratorio* (where collaborator Carl Davis's presence was perhaps too strongly felt), *Standing Stone* would be much more of a hands-on experience for him. At one point when he felt he was losing control, he called up the three key members of his support team (or "the politburo", as they became known during the Abbey Road sessions) and declared autonomy – as in "Guys, I'm taking over".

He and Rodney Bennett had their moments. McCartney was happy to concede that this or that passage was "a bit of Scotch tape" (usually because it was), that the end of the third movement was too thin, minimalist, "see-through" ("Philip Glass would have liked that bit," he adds, spinning off into a lively digression – and his inquiring mind makes for a lot of those – on Glass and Buddhism).

But then came the fax from New York in which Rodney Bennett referred to one particular passage as "feeble". McCartney felt a little too much like the pupil on that occasion. So when the teacher submitted his first draft of the final pages, it was the composer's turn to pull rank. "I told Richard that there were a few too many Ds in the C major, that it was a bit too LA, a bit too Carpenters. 'Ooh, you are cruel,' he said. But he took my point. I wanted to go for big

fat, open C-major chords. It was more me, more English."

And indeed it is a grand Anglican moment where the chorus – a cappella – suddenly acquires the power of speech and the love song finds words. McCartney is thrilled with this moment – he makes no secret of that. For a time, he considered building it into a real scarf-waving conclusion. But the quiet, "humble" option won out. The final line of text reads "I'll stay with you" and 200 voices have the last word – in unison.

During the recording sessions at Abbey Road, McCartney rarely listened from the control room. He spent most of his time on the studio floor, among the musicians, where the action was, where he'd always felt most at home. At home in Sussex, the studio floor has many stories to tell. In one corner is the harpsichord used on the Beatles' "Because". In another is the stand-up bass used on Elvis Presley's earliest and greatest hits, including "Heartbreak Hotel". The recording that first made the difference for schoolboy Paul. And in another is an old Mellotron (an early synthesiser) salvaged from Abbey Road. McCartney starts playing those wheezy barrel-organ chords from the start of "Strawberry Fields Forever". And suddenly there's this incredible feeling in the pit of your stomach that history has just repeated itself.

"*Standing Stone*" will be released on CD by EMI in September. It will receive its world premiere at the Royal Albert Hall on 14 October.

Kylie and Donna go babysitting

I've always thought the vicarious reading of tabloids through second-hand reporting of them in the broadsheets a very good idea: that way you retain your intellectual credibility while not missing out on any of the week's juicy stories. Unfortunately my upbringing prevents me from doing your dirty work for you (my mother used to switch the television to BBC even when it was turned off, ITV being considered the television equivalent of a tabloid), but instead I can offer you *The Daily Telegraph* by proxy. With reckless disregard for my own blood pressure, I bring to you readers coddled in the lukewarm waters of liberal journalism a few of the more choice right-wing gobblets. "This is a Budget for Sharon and Tracey," wheezed the *Telegraph* last week. "They will now be paid to look after one another's babies, while Darren and Kevin, the putative fathers, are up in the loft pretending to do up granny's insulation. If they stumble on an old silver teapot, they may regard it as a windfall. Gordon Brown has set them an example." Which all goes to show how completely out of touch the *Telegraph* is – everyone knows that Nineties' single parents are called Kylie and Donna.




Dinah Hall

Induction day for my youngest child, who starts school in September, was a depressing experience. Having quickly scanned the list of children in her class against a *Telegraph*-approved selection – "ah, lots of Alices and Anys, that's all right now" – I surveyed the parents, only to find they were all at least 15 years younger than me: some of the fathers were barely out of short trousers. This is the trouble with having too many children too late. My sister, who sometimes works as a dinner lady at her youngest child's school, said that the other day one of the children came up to her and said "you're not like a mummy at all – you're more like a granny".

Having failed to construe this as a tribute to her warmth and kindness, my sister then set her up. Sadly I missed Gordon's performance in Parliament (but never mind, the BBC is bound to offer repeats when *Gordonmania* really kicks in – would a *Radio Times* cover be too much to hope for?), but caught his political broadcast later that night. Someone who evidently has no understanding of the dour appeal of the man has instructed him to smile – a manoeuvre that is obviously as painful for him to achieve as it is for us to watch. He uses a method which can only have been perfected by weeks of gruelling training in front of the mirror – lifting both corners of the mouth upwards and holding it for the duration of one word, usually at the end of a sentence. Like performing bears, it's a cruel and undignified practice that should be banned. Blair smiles quite enough for both of them – Gordon was put on this earth to glower.

The death of Robert Mitchum last week reminded me that I have always had interesting taste in men. As a child, my heart was divided between Mitchum's cleft chin and Cliff Michelmore's double chin. So I should not be surprised that one of my daughters harboured a secret passion (not so secret any more, I suppose) for Ian Lavender in *Dad's Army*. But her first stirrings of passion at the age of seven were for a teacher at school. "I don't know why," she cooed one day, "but when he is on playground duty, my brain just tells me to fall over." Because she was so genuinely puzzled by her own irrational behaviour, I suggested that it might perhaps be because she hoped he would rush over to carry her into the sickroom and tend to her wounded knee? "Yes, that's it!" she cried, amazed at my perspicacity and obviously relieved that she was not suffering from mad calf disease. I only recognised the symptoms because several of the school gate mothers shared them – only in their case it was more like sad cow disease. Developing illogical crushes on figures of authority is, of course, something I grew out of a long time ago.

This new climate of apologising could be dangerous. Ever since Blair said sorry for the potato famine, and Clinton for slavery, everybody seems hell-bent on doing dreadful things, like hitting people's ears off, just so that they can issue a fashionable apology. I can think of no other explanation for my imagining the local vicar would be amused by my murmuring "the body of Christ" when I proffered him a Fringle at a party recently. Thank goodness he is more forgiving than the Ayatollah: instead of excommunicating me he felt obliged to apologise himself for not being religious enough to take offence. I may have to convert to Catholicism – they do a very attractive fine in penitence.



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the leader page

A patient plod down the road to compromise

Last year, this newspaper condemned the decision first to block the marchers at Drumcree and then to let them go ahead after a three-day stand-off between police and the Orange mob. Sir Hugh Annesley, then the chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, had given in to intimidation. It was a victory for might over the rule of law.

This year's return fixture was always going to be one of the stiffest tests faced by the new government. On the face of it, it seems that the Prime Minister and Mr Mowlem have decided to give in straightaway rather than wait three days. That may have the advantage of looking less weak, but is it not essentially the same cowardly decision? Certainly, something is very wrong when a police chief in the United Kingdom takes a decision on the grounds that it will subject a group of our citizens to "minimum violence". Those were the unfortunate words chosen by Sir Hugh's successor, Ronnie Flanagan, announcing the decision yesterday and apologising rather inelegantly for it to the residents of the Garvaghy Road. In fact, the main violence suffered by the Tricolour-waving, dustbin-lid-banging residents was the bruising of their nationalist sympathies. Mr Flanagan was inadvertently speaking of the real calculation behind the decision: that there would be violence in Northern Ireland whatever the

decision, but by allowing the march to go ahead there would be less violence than if it were re-routed. This was, in other words, a pragmatic judgement of the balance of terror.

The calculation that nationalist anger would be easier to contain than loyalist anger sends a dangerous message. It says to republican extremists that they are not capable of causing enough trouble - despite the fact that it is the IRA which seems most intent on pursuing violence and snubbing the Government's overtures. It also says to loyalists that the air of menace, cloaked in respectability, with which they got their own way at Drumcree last year will go on producing results.

But there is one important difference this year. Last year, Sir Hugh made a decision and was forced to change it by the threat of violence. This year, Mr Flanagan made a decision and it was carried through. The real outrage last year lay in the flouting of the law. To the extent that yesterday's decision was made only to pre-empt intimidation, it should be criticised. The hard question remains whether it was right initially to stop the march last year or to let it go ahead this year.

The question is difficult to answer partly because the march itself cannot possibly matter to anyone who does not invest it with its full tribal meanings. In any other part of the UK, who would care if an orderly crowd of people



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walked down a road wearing funny clothes and hats? But then, in any other part of the UK, if some of the people who lived in a road did say they found the funny clothes and hats offensive because they thought they were insulting to their religion or cultural identity, the police would persuade the parade to take a detour.

However, this is Northern Ireland, and most of the stuff about the right to march and the Battle of the Boyne and the injustice of Partition is just a smoke-screen to conceal the ugly fact that there are two groups of people who dislike and distrust each other. One

group thinks the right to march where they have always marched is central to their cultural identity, while the other thinks it cheapens and belittles theirs. Both are right, but neither can be allowed to prevail totally over the other. Yesterday, the balance was tipped too far in favour of the loyalists. But if the march had been re-routed against their will, it would have been tipped too far against them. That might only be fair, given the historic and enduring (but diminishing) slights suffered by the nationalists. But it would not be the basis for a lasting solution. A possible way forward was pro-

posed by Robert Saulters, grand master of the Orange Order, who suggested that the loyalists should assert their right to march down the Garvaghy Road but should choose not to exercise it. At first blush, this sounds like the inverted logic of Catch-22. But it is time for the loyalists to make a crazy gesture, "a voluntary non-exercise of acknowledged rights" as John Bruton, the former Irish prime minister called it.

The key word is "voluntary", and a workable compromise would involve the Orangemen of Portadown making a large - even Christian - gesture. Judging by the hand-washing of the minister of Drumcree parish church yesterday, this will be difficult. He told BBC Radio that his responsibility ended at the door of his church, and that what his congregation got up to after the service was nothing to do with him. You can be a member of any denomination or none and find this interpretation of the teaching of the Bible perverse.

As ever, progress in Northern Ireland depends on the concept of consent, and consent is difficult to procure from tribes as implacably opposed as Northern Ireland's are. The early optimism engendered by Mr Blair's offer to Sinn Féin of a fresh start was soon dashed by renewed IRA violence. And last night's rioting looked like a slide backwards into fear and loathing.

But there is no alternative to patiently plodding on. Mr Blair and Ms Mowlem are heading in the right direction. The Prime Minister's apology over the Irish famine was designed to stroke nationalist feeling, while yesterday's decision does at least buy some breathing space in the long process of breaking down loyalist mistrust. Slowly, the political and economic incentives have to be put in place to reduce the rewards to extremism and increase those to compromise.

Sharper than a serpent's tooth

Talk about skipping a generation. It has only just sunk in for most Conservatives. They have elected a leader who is 36. The average age of Tory party members is 65. On average, William Hague is young enough to be their son. And that, of course, means they are utterly out of touch with him. Imagine their horror on discovering that Mr Hague is apparently "living in sin" with his fiancée. They can't complain about "young people today", or go on about how in their day people used to have to wait till they got married, because by a quirk of their party rules they managed to find the only Tory in the country under the age of 50 and elect him leader.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do single parents really want work?

Sir: You report that the Child Poverty Action Group are complaining that the £200m the Government is setting aside from the windfall tax to "enable" single parents to go out to work is "pitiful" (Report, 5 July). The pressure group arrived at this conclusion because, they say, when the sum is divided by the number of lone parents to be targeted it will be worth only £1.92 a week each. However, this assumes that Harriet Harman's oft-quoted figure of 90 per cent of single parents wanting to work is correct. The evidence for this is not good.

The figure quoted by Ms Harman comes from research commissioned by her department. Unfortunately, the findings are flawed: the survey respondents were asked a rather dumb, bald question about whether or not they "wanted" to work. There was no test of the validity of the answers with relevant follow-up questions. Consequently we do not know whether the single parents questioned had (as do many long-term unemployed people) unreasonable expectations about what wage they could command or what kind of job they could do. The researchers did not even ask an all-important question when assessing attachment to the labour market: "When did you last look for a job?"

According to the Labour Force Survey, the number of lone parents without a job who had looked for work at some time in the four weeks prior to interview and who were available to start a job in the two weeks following their interview was, in summer 1996, just 136,000. Since there are over 500,000 single parents on Income Support who are to be targeted it follows that fewer than three in 10 of them show any real evidence of wanting work enough to look for it.

PAUL ASHTON
Eastbourne, East Sussex

Editor under arrest in Iran

Sir: We would like to draw your readers' attention to the plight of Iranian literary review *Adineh*.

Mr Sarkoobi was arrested for demanding freedom of expression in Iran. He was held in detention for several months before being charged with espionage. We have now received unconfirmed reports that he has been sentenced to death. Mr Sarkoobi's situation is extremely critical and we urge that international pressure be brought to bear on the Iranian authorities to release him, immediately and unconditionally.

Given the President Elect's positive campaign in the recent presidential election and his promises to uphold freedom of expression and human rights in Iran we believe international pressure for Mr Sarkoobi's case would help to save his life.

SYBILLE BEDFORD
LADY RACHEL BILLINGTON
President Elect, English Centre of International PEN
MORIS FARHI
Chairman, Writers in Prison Committee, English PEN
LADY ANTONIA FRASER
RONALD HARWOOD
President, International PEN
FRANCIS KING
Vice President, International PEN
HAROLD PINTER



JOSEPHINE PULLEIN-THOMPSON
President, English Centre of International PEN
BERNICE RUBENS
TOM STOPPARD
RALEIGH TREVELYAN
FAY WELDON
and 38 others
The English Centre of International PEN
London SW3

Rival visions of England

Sir: Clive Aslet's lament for the declining cultural traditions of England ("The waning of Middle England", 4 July) reveals perhaps more than he wishes.

There never has been a single cultural identity that all English people have possessed, no value that they have all shared. The only concrete example that Aslet identifies reveals the vacuity of his vision. He laments the loss of the cultural practice of the "whole nation" sitting down to watch the *Nine O'Clock News*.

Aslet says that historically the British "behaved politely towards one another. They did not urinate, spit or belch in public. They did not beg. They were tolerant of one another's peculiarities..." This Enid Blyton version of British history is not only fantastical, arrogant and pompous, it is also insulting, as the other side of the story is, of course, that non-British peoples do beg, urinate, belch, spit in public, and so on.

Aslet's lament for the "loss of quaint rituals" cannot be dismissed as a harmless plea for a lost idyllic age - it is an intolerant ideological

vision which justifies, and does not avoid (as he claims), the racism, homophobia and other forms of violence that have typified English culture. Taking pride in the nation's past is often merely sad, but it is also dangerous when that past is mythologised and "others" blamed for disrupting that idyll.

Dr PHILIP COLE
Lecturer in Applied Philosophy
Middlesex University
London N17

Sir: Clive Aslet's article has articulated very clearly and in a measured way the valid concerns of many people at the rapid changes occurring in our society today. New Labour would do well to remember these concerns and think about the speed and nature of the changes it is proposing in its reforming zeal.

Mr Aslet's last paragraph refers to the lack of understanding of the Middle England perspective, which is now fashionable to denigrate. Two examples spring to mind. The English will not be able to have a say in Scottish and Welsh devolution, although it will affect them as much as anyone else in this country. Also, the latest anti-burning Bill is a twofold attempt to discriminate against a sector of society, which would rightly generate huge opposition if those under attack were Muslims or Jews undertaking their religious practices.

New Labour should remember its pledge to the whole of society and not forsake tolerance.

JOHN WARD
Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk

Ian Greer an innocent man

Sir: I have read with interest your editorial (4 July) dealing with the report of the Committee on Standards and Privileges on "cash for questions".

It will be recalled that the original allegation, causing Ian Greer to sue for libel, was to the effect that certain MPs (notably Ian Hamilton and Tim Smith) had been paid cash for asking questions in the House of Commons. The cash was said to have been paid by Ian Greer, acting as a conduit for money from Mohamed Al Fayed.

The report states, in the case of both MPs: "There is no evidence to indicate that [the MP] received cash from Mr Al Fayed indirectly through Mr Ian Greer." Mr Greer, always maintained that he did not pay cash for questions and was backed by the Board of Ian Greer Associates (of which I was a non-executive director from 1991 to 1996). We believed his denial and the report vindicates him.

He has always agreed that some years ago he did pay commission on business referred to him by certain MPs. There was nothing illegal about this, and it was for MPs to declare such payments, not the responsibility of Mr Greer.

I hope that the media will now give some prominence to the fact that the report clears him of the "cash for questions" allegation. I hope so - but I doubt it.

MURIEL TURNER
(Baroness Turner of Camden)
London NW6

Untimely referendums

Sir: The Government's defeat on Thursday in the House of Lords gives it a chance to reconsider its proposed dates for the Scottish and Welsh referendums - 11 and 25 September.

These are both Thursdays, during school term. They would therefore require the closure of many Scottish and Welsh schools for use as polling stations, and throw an extra burden of childcare on parents, especially working mothers. This would be a very poor advertisement for a government committed to education and to the interests of women and families.

The referendums should be held on a weekend, or if this is impossible, during the school holidays. A general move to weekend voting, as is practised by most of our European partners, would end unnecessary disruption and cost to education throughout the United Kingdom.

RICHARD HELLER
London SW9

Shock therapy

Sir: On dear Oliver James' "Therapy on the airwaves" (Letters, 5 July) doesn't seem to like psychiatrists very much. I can see no other reason for his patronising denigration of Dr Clare and other psychiatrists as manipulative biological reductionists.

He suggests that psychiatrists are

trained only to stupefy their patients with drugs and electricity into a state of conformity. This is rather like saying that psychotherapists are trained only to brainwash people into being like them. Both of these statements might be true if either profession were, as a matter of course, practised grossly unethically. However, my experience in the NHS suggests that most psychiatrists and psychologists do try, often with minimal resources, to promote the autonomy of their clients or patients.

Dr PHILIP TIMMS
Senior Lecturer in Community Psychiatry
Guys and St Thomas' UMDS
London SE1

Blame the Pope

Sir: Austin Pielou (5 July) seems unaware that Pope Adrian IV was English and that the idea of annexing Ireland was conceived by the Archbishop of Canterbury's secretary, John of Salisbury, after Canterbury lost all metropolitan rights over the see of Dublin when it opted to become an Irish bishopric in 1152.

John was dispatched as an envoy of Henry II to his fellow countryman Adrian to discuss this Irish Problem and bring the Irish to heel. Adrian, under the Donation of Constantine, was held to be lord of all the islands of the sea and he readily agreed that Henry II and all his successors should have the right to rule Ireland, although they did not invade till later.

The Irish, needless to say, were not consulted.

ARTHUR VALENTINE

High price of fuel poverty

Sir: Your correspondents (4 July) are right to highlight the apparent contradiction in reducing energy prices in the Budget whilst also aiming at a 20 per cent reduction in carbon emissions. Few doubt that fossil-based energy prices will rise as they increasingly reflect the cost of the damage caused by this form of fuel. If price is to be the carbon abatement mechanism, then according to some economists it will need a tax rising to \$100 a barrel of oil equivalent by 2010 to dampen demand for fossil energy to the level recommended by the UN IPCC Scientific Committee.

Meanwhile the Government is faced with the problem of the fuel-poor, mostly occupying the 12 million sub-standard energy-guzzling houses in England and Wales. In the short term the Chancellor had no alternative but to reduce VAT on domestic fuel to alleviate fuel poverty. However, the money that is now being allocated to housing should be targeted at refurbishing poor-quality homes to an energy efficiency standard of SAP 60 (government Standard Assessment Procedure). To put this into perspective, new homes have to achieve around SAP 75 whilst most of the sub-standard homes will be SAP 10-20. Houses that cannot be raised to this standard should be replaced with new-build.

In due course the EU will impose a carbon tax which will not only dampen demand for fossil-based energy, but also improve the cost-effectiveness of energy-efficient buildings and renewable energy. The first call on the proceeds of the tax should be to ensure that fuel poverty is consigned to history.

Professor PETER F SMITH
Chairman, Royal Institute of British Architects Environment and Planning Committee
Sheffield

Library hours

Sir: E Pallas (Letters, 2 July) seems to think we are out of tune with library users' needs, particularly in relation to opening hours. Our research shows that users do want to see longer opening hours - so do we, but we can't fit a quart into a pint pot.

To meet the opening hours that our readers desire, including extending evening and Sunday opening, costs would be in the region £800,000 a year. We are currently looking to see how this can be achieved.

Perhaps a way forward would be for libraries to become eligible for lottery funding. As E Pallas states, libraries have the potential and are positioned to play a greater role in people's daily lives.

FRANCES MANGAN
Assistant Director
(Libraries, Arts & Tourism)
London Borough of Camden
London WC1

Major myth

Sir: Before the myth gets established in too many cuttings files, I must point out to Steve Boggan ("Why John Major did not go to Hong Kong", 2 July) that Mr Major was not at Lord's on the day following his election defeat. He was at the Oval - much nearer his native Brixton - watching Surrey defeat British Universities in the first round of the Benson and Hedges Cup.

MICHAEL LEAPMAN
London SW8

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

سكرا من الامم

obituaries / gazette

George Katsaros

Hey, when I die, what will they say?
Hey, a boozier's dead!
Hey, a pot-head, a night-bird's died!

These are the opening verses (freely translated from the Greek) of the song "Greek Delight" with which George Katsaros inaugurated his recording career in America in June 1977. A serious disjuncture between the bravado expressed in his art and his behaviour in real life appears to have ensued, to judge by the generous tributes from Greek communities around the world following his eventual death, exactly 70 years later.

Indeed, since metropolitan Greeks finally discovered his music in 1987, Katsaros became revered not just for his irrepressible zest for life and indefatigable musicianship, but as a personification of a simplicity and spontaneity supposedly lost in the modern state of Greece, but apparently preserved in the time-warped of diaspora communities. His quaint linguistic usage in Greek, an engaging testimony to his long absence from the motherland, and his old-world piety, to which he attributed his longevity, completed the icon of this pristine bard of the modern Greek diaspora.

The stage-name "Katsaros" (meaning "curly") derived from his bushy black hair, which became a shock of white hair in later life and was frequently restrained with a hairnet. His real name was George Theologitis, son of Nicholas Theologitis and Anna Stoupi, and he was born at Ayia Marina on the Cycladic island of Amorgos in 1888, according to the birth certificate, which was later reissued, authenticated and translated, and which he cheerfully allowed visitors to photocopy.

The remainder of his biography is almost exclusively based on the colourful but often contradictory oral narratives of the voluble centenarian him-

self, and many dates and details are in conspicuous need of verification. There is, however, a more or less coherent core to the various versions of the catalogue of wanderings and notable encounters, which commence with a move from Amor-



Katsaros: bard of the diaspora

gos to Athens after the death of his father, to take up residence in the royal palace – in the servants' quarters, that is, for his mother had secured employment there as a cook. Katsaros supplemented the family income by performing in various seaside taverns of Piraeus and Faliron, singing and playing the guitar, which he had taken up at the age of seven under the influence of his paternal grandfather, a noted musician and roisterer of Amorgos.

By the time Katsaros eventually persuaded his émigré uncle Dimitrios to nominate him as an immigrant to the United States (in 1909, or 1913, or 1915), he had acquired a wide repertoire of Greek songs and promptly found work in the

Greek cabarets of downtown New York. He further claimed to have been recruited to record Greek songs for RCA Victor at the Camden studios in New Jersey as early as 1919, eight years before his earliest extant recording was made.

Katsaros's autobiographical narratives invariably dwell on the veritable odyssey which he undertook between the wars around Greek communities scattered over five continents. He claimed to have entertained expatriate Greeks from Canada to Chile, Bombay to Burma, Cape Town to Cairo, and to have donated some of the proceeds of his performances to Greek church- and school-building projects, notably in Australia, whose Greek communities he recalled touring twice in the 1920s.

He would also regale his interviewers with anecdotes about celebrities he met on his travels, ranging from "Alekis Kaponis" (his name for Al Capone) to Andre Segovia, from President Roosevelt to Riorita, the Mexican dancer with whom he allegedly featured in two silent films and whom he almost married in the late 1920s. (He lost her to leukemia during a cooling-off period, part of which he spent in Greece, and never contemplated marriage again.)

By the outbreak of the Second World War, Katsaros had recorded some 50 Greek songs in America, many of which have recently been reissued in Greece. He resumed recording sporadically in the 1940s and 1950s, but in the post-war era seems to have been upstaged by visiting musicians from Greece and by imported recordings, so that most of his claimed 120 songs appear to have been lost. What survives on gramophone records is generally quite diverse, ranging from "heavy" rebetika (Greek Blues, such as "Greek Delight") to "light" European-style popular songs, a few

of which satirise contemporary American mores, such as women wearing trousers (ironically styled "pyjamas"), and the politics of the Depression period.

While stressing his versatility as a guitarist and vocalist, Katsaros most proudly declared himself to be the patriarch of the Piraeus-style rebetika. Indeed his career both antedated and survived that of the most illustrious early exponent of the genre, Markos Vamvakaris (1905-72), also a Cycladic islander, and rebetika was the genre which triggered Katsaros's belated discovery in Greece.

For it was during the early 1970s, when veterans such as Vamvakaris were dying in rapid succession, that devotees of rebetika were first introduced to Katsaros's seemingly primitive performance style as preserved on a small number of rare American records belonging to secretive collectors and tantalisingly broadcast in excerpts on pirate radio stations in Greece. Some zealots were intrigued into fabricating a biography of Katsaros to match the suggestive recordings, for a Greek National Radio programme of 1976, which included a somewhat premature account of his demise.

In the meantime, Katsaros had put an end to 40 years of wanderings in 1958, settling in Turpon Springs, a seaside town in Florida for which he had retained a particular affection since his first visit in 1919, because of its sizeable community of expatriate Aegean islanders and its physical resemblance to Greek island ports. He continued to entertain this community at weddings and festivals, in recognition of which he was given the Florida Folk Heritage Award in 1993.

It was here that Katsaros was finally tracked down by Athenian repositophiles in 1987, and other distinctions were conferred on him in due course. These included the medals of the cities

of Athens, Piraeus and Salonica, in whose municipal theatres he gave concerts during his much-publicised return to Greece after 60 years' absence in 1983, and again in 1995 at the invitation of the Greek Ministry of Culture.

During this period Greek governments were increasingly discovering the virtues (and lobbying potential) of the estimated 40 per cent of the Greek nation resident outside Greece, and, on the eve of his 107th birthday, Katsaros returned to Greece in December 1995 to perform in a concert for delegates to the inaugural meeting of the World Council of Greeks Abroad in Salonica, which was beamed by satellite to all quarters of the globe. With a splendid sense of occasion, Katsaros commenced his medley of rebetika songs with some verses about police maltreatment of a bashful smoker; the assembled dignitaries responded with amused indulgence.

The significance of George Katsaros to Greek culture surpasses his rhetorical value as an icon of the resilience of global Hellenism. He was the last representative of a school of Greek-American musicians who pioneered professional Greek musicianship in the age of rampant commodification of musical performance and who collectively acted as a catalyst for developments in Greek popular music such as the rise of the bouzouki and the Piraeus-style rebetika in pre-war Greece. Scholarly biographies of Katsaros and his colleagues, based on painstaking analysis of sources such as the Greek-language press of the diaspora, as well as oral history, are overdue.

Stathis Gaunlett

George Theologitis (George Katsaros), singer: born Ayia Marina, Amorgos 22 December 1888; died Turpon Springs, Florida 22 June 1997.



A tenacious ambition for perfection in her work and in her private life: Scott in the early 1930s

Jean Scott

An actress whose career spanned six decades, Jean Scott was also a distinguished teacher, notably for 16 years at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art under the directorships of Sir Kenneth Barnes and John Fernald.

She was born Winifred Walkinshaw to a family, Scots in origin, which had been settled in Devon since the 18th century. Although her parents were not Catholic, they sent their daughter to an Ursuline Convent School, from where she left bent on a career in the theatre. Her reluctant father achieved a compromise: she could become an actress but first she must train as a teacher of drama. She came through all three stages of her LRAM exams with ease.

It was as a member of the Ashley Dukes Company that the career of Jean Scott – her stage name – took off. Ashley Dukes (1885-1959) became known, both in Britain and in the United States, as a dramatist and theatre critic. In the Twenties and Thirties he was also a theatre manager of distinction.

Most new plays performed in the West End between the wars were light-hearted confessions, often well-written but designed to meet the needs of both the Lord Chamberlain's rigid censorship and of a public anxious to escape for a while from the bleak economic climate of the times. The Ashley Dukes Company, however, gave performances of outstanding plays which were often considered non-commercial. It was respected as a training ground for young actors, and was especially famous for its presentation of foreign plays, sometimes adapted (e.g. Lion Feuchtwanger's *Jew Siss*) by Dukes himself. In addition it was a cradle for modern English verse-drama, by such playwrights as TS. Eliot, Christopher Fry and Ronald Duncan – and gave the first London performance of Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*.

In 1933 it acquired its own premises, the Mercury, a small, well-equipped, theatre in Notting Hill, which it shared with the Ballet Rambert, recently founded by Dukes's wife, Marie Rambert. Scott's early career flourished in Dukes's company, with its emphasis on poetic drama, and her experience there informed her work in the theatre and in the classroom for many years to come. Jean Scott went to Rada in 1943, working for the last 12 years of his 50-year directorship

under Sir Kenneth Barnes. Here was a great meeting of minds. Under his "strict but kindly" rule, Rada had grown from small beginnings in 1905 to become a world-renowned centre of excellence.

Barnes's system was both straightforward and flexible. Students joined at any time during the academic year. They were streamed initially according to their apparent ability and, later, according to their attainment; anyone who did not come up to scratch was kept down until they made the grade, those who were judged to be wanting in ability or in application, received a letter of dismissal.

This form of grouping gave rise to an interesting mix of students in each class: near, though not exact, contemporaries of varied experience came together in a way which would not have been possible in other circumstances. For instance, Scott might teach a class including young aspirants such as Albert Finney, Peter O'Toole and Richard Briers, although each had entered Rada at different times.

Scott maintained a happy atmosphere in her class, underpinned by firm discipline. Fun and humour had their place, but a student was given "time out" if he submerged learning in an excess of levity, to be readmitted only when he recovered his equilibrium. Barnes was succeeded in 1955 by John Fernald. Fernald's approach was entirely different: he brought in all his new students together each September, at the beginning of the academic year. Of necessity, the intake was drastically reduced. His aim was to go for quality. Scott's experience, her adaptable nature and her great ability, enabled her to cope well with the immense differences between the two philosophies.

As a teacher she was now at the top of her profession. Teaching around 90 hours a term at Rada, she also took private pupils in voice-work and drama. She frequently completed a 12-hour working day, and took little time off for meals. None the less, she managed to combine teaching with her two other great roles in life – those of wife and mother. In 1939 she had married James McKerrill of Hillhouse, 14th Laird of Hillhouse, a captain in the Army; their son, Charles, was born two years later. This was a time when there were few role models for the working wife. Her adaptability enabled her to manage the delicate balance between these "lives", although she used to say, "Were I unconscious, I could still do my work."

There was a chance to change this gruelling pattern when her son grew up. She then left Rada, in 1959, to concentrate not only on her home life and her private pupils but also to return to her first great love – acting. She commuted between London and her husband in Ireland, until his death in 1964. She compensated for his loss by hard work and indulging her passions for riding, tennis, bridge and reading. She had an enduring love of Ireland, and was recently awarded honorary membership of the Knights of the Golden Chain (Naith Nask).

The conjunction Wyn (from Winifred) appeared in her name at this period; to avoid confusion with another actress of the same name, she remained registered with Equity as Jean Wyn Scott for the rest of her life.

Scott's career in the Sixties was a blend of teaching, theatre and film-work as well as television appearances in plays and various series of the day: *No Hiding Place*, *Z Cars* and *Crossroads*, amongst others. She also did voice-overs for television advertisements, which not only gave her experience in a new discipline but provided her with the opportunity to practise different dialects, including that of her native Devon, which she got up to scratch for Hovis.

She worked with special pleasure with Franco Zeffirelli on his 1968 film version of *Romeo and Juliet*, one of several ventures which took her abroad. Later she was involved in the production of *The Devil's Disciple* which opened the new Shaw Theatre in London in 1971.

Jean Scott rated kindness above all other virtues: kindness, compassion, vulnerability and artistic sensitivity were combined in her. These gentler attributes were offset by a tenacious ambition for perfection in her work and in her private life. There was a restless, impatient side to her nature which compelled her to look forward rather than back.

She died peacefully during the afternoon of 15 May at her home, 164 years before, her great actor-brother Edmund Kean.

Janet Woodward

Winifred Walkinshaw (Jean Scott), actress and teacher: born Plymouth, Devon 2 December 1905; married 1939 James McKerrill of Hillhouse, 14th Laird of Hillhouse (died 1964; one son); died Northwood, Middlesex 15 May 1997.

George Sweet

George Sweet was a figurative painter in the realistic and painterly Anglo-French tradition. He was widely travelled and widely read, with many interests: he could, indeed, have become an ornithologist, a linguist or a classicist.

He was born in 1909. As a boy his devotion to at least two of these interests was apparent. He was working as a medical student when he heard that Tonks, the formidable Slade Professor, was to retire in two years, and he switched over to the Slade School, for his ambition had always been to be a painter. At the Slade he was a fellow student with William Coldstream and Claude Rogers, who became a lifelong friend.

A period of travel in Europe followed, during which, as a natural linguist, he became fluent in the languages he loved – French, Spanish and Catalan. The outbreak of civil war in Spain brought this fertile period to an end and he returned to England to paint and teach. His lifelong passion for ornithology resulted in his becoming an accepted authority on raptors, in particular the honey-buzzard and osprey. He con-

tributed on these subjects to the standard work *Birds of the Western Palearctic* (the first of whose encyclopaedic volumes appeared in 1977). Very late in life, in spite of failing health, he was still prepared to go on bird-watching expeditions with a friend in the New Forest, and looked forward to such outings with undiminished enjoyment.

In quite another field, he gave much of his time in post-war years to the International Association of Plastic Art (IAPA, later IAA, part of Unesco) as spokesman for the visual arts. But his teaching career was the main distraction from his studio from 1938 to 1960. As the head of the Fine Art department at the West of England College of Art in Bristol he had considerable responsibility and influence, bringing a wide and cosmopolitan experience to his students: not many art teachers would have been able to tell them of a meeting with Bonnard, for instance. He retired early, feeling that art schools were changing in ways he was not in sympathy with, and from then on was able to devote himself to his painting.

When he left his study table,

littered with papers and books, to go into his painting room – into which few people were admitted – he became a painter who worked with concentration and humility towards a complete "realisation" of his subject, a process based on exact observation of nuances of colour and tone (precision of drawing being taken for granted as essential).

With advancing years, far from relaxing or becoming repetitious, his painting became more expansive, and he embarked on a series of large figure paintings. Those who saw these last works at the Browne and Darty gallery in London – an autumnal harvest – will remember the grasp of solid forms hatched in light, the sense of air circulating round them, the unremitting realism. Three were bought for the Saatchi collection; this must have caused Sweet some very amusement, as he had never made much concession to the marketing of his work, or the building of a reputation, seeming to prefer keeping his canvases under his eye in the studio.

The high standards he always stood for would at times result in a mildly professional or didactic manner – a questioning



A fresh response to things seen: Sweet by Rachel Heinning Bray

eye, a tendency to correct his friends' French accents – but it was transformed in a moment with an infectious enthusiasm and pleasure at something seen or read. To go round an exhibition with him was to share in this absorption and in his fresh response to things seen, which

stayed with him until the very end of his long life.

Bernard Dunstan

George Ernest Sweet, artist: born London 20 November 1909; married Audrey Hannam (died 1975; one daughter); died Bristol 29 June 1997.

Patrick Gardiner

Patrick Gardiner, a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, for over 30 years, was a philosopher whose wide general culture and love of the arts informed everything he wrote.

He was especially interested in, and knowledgeable about, painting. He himself painted, and was proud of the fact that his daughter Vanessa became a successful painter, but he also had a deep appreciation of literature and music. His writings are accessible to the general reader, and his choice of subjects, being unaffected by contemporary fashion in philosophy, reflected only his personal interests. He was the least competitive of men.

One of his interests was history, which he had read as an undergraduate at Christ Church, Oxford, before embarking on philosophy. His first book is entitled *The Nature of Historical Ex-*

planation (1961). His reasoned rejection of extremist, monistic theories of history is a pleasure to read, and demonstrates his moderation, clarity, and his ability to write elegantly.

His book on Schopenhauer (1963) did a good deal to rehabilitate this neglected philosopher, and remains an indispensable critical guide to his thought. It may have been Schopenhauer's intense interest in the arts which led Gardiner to make him an object of study. He provides a masterly appreciation of Schopenhauer's contribution to philosophy while retaining a critical stance. Discipleship was never a feature of Gardiner's personality.

Kierkegaard (1988) is again devoted to a philosopher who, although considered one of the founders of existentialism, is somewhat outside the mainstream of Western philosophical

thought. In addition, Gardiner edited two anthologies: *Theories of History* (1959), and *Nineteenth Century Philosophy* (1969).

He came from a family which was deeply concerned with the arts. He was educated at Westminster School, where he was a contemporary of the philosophers David Pears and Richard

Wollheim, and also of Hugh Lloyd-Jones, who became Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford. Gardiner served for three years in Italy and North Africa during the Second World War and, in 1949, became a lecturer in philosophy at Wadham College, Oxford. In 1952, he became a Fellow of St Antony's, and then transferred to Magdalen in 1958, where he was a notably sensitive teacher. He was made an Emeritus Fellow of Magdalen upon his retirement in 1989.

Those lucky enough to know Gardiner will sorely miss him. He was a wonderfully generous host, and an accomplished raconteur, and displayed an ironic sense of humour. He was modest and self-deprecating, and extremely sensitive to the feelings of others. When I had occasion to consult him about a book I was writing in which Schopenhauer figured, he pointed out my er-

rors in the most tactful way possible, so that I came away enriched with new insights rather than feeling stupid. He was one of those rare people whom one can genuinely call good.

When my wife and I moved to Oxford in 1974, Patrick and Susan Gardiner quickly became our friends. Their beautiful house in Wytham, with its lovely garden, became one of the places in Oxford we most enjoyed visiting. Many others felt likewise. No couple could have had a wider circle of devoted friends.

Anthony Storr

Patrick Lancaster Gardiner, philosopher: born 17 March 1922; tutor in Philosophy, Magdalen College, Oxford 1958-89; Fellow 1958-89 (Emeritus); FBA 1985; married 1955 Susan Booth (two daughters); died Oxford 24 June 1997.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

EGAN: Niall Michael Joseph, born 6 July to Patrick Egan and Siân Granville, and a brother for Grace Helena.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

Birthdays

Mr Michael Ancram MP former government minister, 52; Sir John Gilbert Brown, publisher, 81; Mr Pierre Cardin, fashion designer, 75; Mr David Faber MP, 36; Lt-Gen Sir Ian Hirst, cosmochemist, 87; Mr Michael Howard, former MP and Home Secretary, 56; Mr Tony Jackson, golfer, 53; Mr Gian Carlo Menotti, composer, 86; Mr Alessandro Nannini, racing driver, 38; Mr Bill

Oddie, actor, comedian and ornithologist, 56; The Hon Sir Steven Runciman, historian, 94; Mr Ringo Starr, drummer, 37; Sir Richard Turnbull, former Governor General, Kenya, 88; General Sir Michael Walker, Commander-in-Chief, Land Command, 53.

Anniversaries

Births: Lion Feuchtwanger, novelist and playwright, 1884; Marc Chagall,

painter and designer, 1887. Deaths: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, writer, 1930; Today is the Feast Day of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Saints Eusebius, Ercogota and Setridia, St Felix of Naples, St Hedda of Winchester, St Palladius and St Pantaeon.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Elizabeth James, "Poetry in Artists' Books", 2.30pm.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment moves the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, London, 1st. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment moves the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, London, 1st. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment moves the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, London, 1st.

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Children

R v London Borough of Lambeth, ex p Cadell; QBD Crown Office List (Connell J) 9 June 1997. The words of s 24 of the Children Act 1989 were clear in that a person who qualified for advice and assistance meant a person "within the area of the authority", and that that phrase was not to be read as referring back to the period when the qualifying person was still a child. Accordingly a

CASE SUMMARIES

7 July 1997

local authority which had sent a child to a foster home in the area of another authority was not responsible for giving advice and assistance when the child reached the age of 18.

Stephen Cobb (Hartman & Hartman, Canterbury) for the applicant; Anthony Cade (Stenberg Reed Taylor & Gill) for Lambeth.

Road traffic DPP v Gurr; QBD Civ Ct (Simon Brown LJ, Garland J) 17 June 1997.

For the purposes of Art 15(2) of the Community Recording Equipment Regulations EC 3821/85, a driver's working period ended, at the earliest, when he ceased to drive the tachographed vehicle. It was necessary, therefore, for him to use record sheets even if using the vehicle, for his own personal use, to return home at the end of the day.

John McGuinness (CPS) for the appellant; Hugo Keith (Treasury Solicitor) as amicus curiae.

Tax Wild v Cattanman (Inspector of Taxes); CA (Belam LJ, Millett LJ, Otton LJ) 13 June 1997.

An individual taxpayer is disqualified from entitlement to business expansion relief under s 291(1)(c) of the Taxes Act 1988 if he is connected with the company in question "at any time in the relevant period". That meant that he had to be unconnected with the company for the whole of the relevant period of five years from incorporation of the company. The taxpayer in person; Timothy Brennan (Inland Revenue Solicitor) for the Crown.

150 من الامثل

Simpson finds golden opportunity to outline grand strategy for GEC

George Simpson, recruited to lead General Electric Co in the post-Weinstock era, has a golden opportunity to explain his grand strategy this week. The nation's electronics giant is due to produce its yearly results; they are expected to be little changed at just over £1bn. But a raft of exceptional charges could distort the picture, pushing the figure to around £800m.

Under the 35-year rule of Lord Weinstock, GEC grew from a modest electrical business to its present, near-£1bn capitalisation. There were some spectacular takeover bids (and battles) along the way such as Associated Electrical Industries and English Electric in the 1960s with names like Ferranti, Plessey and VSEL gathered in subsequent years.

Although he has chopped and rationalised Lord Weinstock has left GEC with a rather curious structure. GEC Marconi, its defence business,

is the only important operation in full ownership. Other main profit-centres are partly owned like the Horpoint and Creta consumer goods side where GEC has 50.5 per cent of the capital. The group has accumulated and lovingly pursued one of the biggest cash piles in British industry, now standing at a cool £2.3bn.

Mr Simpson arrived a year ago from what is now LucasVarity. There are growing signs he has looked and, in his mind, decided the direction he wants to take. Next will come the action: the reshaping and streamlining of the sprawling, even rambling, giant which, despite its dominant presence on the domestic front, is still overshadowed by the likes of Siemens of Germany and ABB, the Swedish-Swiss group.

It seems that many of the partly owned companies will be sold or go into full GEC ownership. Deals with Siemens are likely.

Before the French elections swept the Socialists into power Mr Simpson was intent on merging GEC Marconi with the French group Thomson-CSF of France. But the poll result put paid to such ambitions.

The French setback gave a new lease of life to one of the stock market's most bewitched takeover stories - a GEC merger with British Aerospace. The two have had talks; they nearly reached a conclusion when BAe looked at a crippled company in 1993 with its shares nose-diving to 112p.

This time round many are convinced the old merger tale will enjoy the ring of truth. And they believe Mr Simpson is clearing the decks for such an eventuality.

In the past month there has been something of a boardroom merry-go-round. And Lord Prior, long-time chairman and close ally of Lord Weinstock, has announced he will depart in March.



STOCK MARKET WEEK

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

GEC watchers believe the most significant move occurred on Budget day when, while the stock market's attention was focused on Gordon Brown, it

was announced that David Newland, very much part of the old guard, had quit as finance director.

His decision to go just ahead of the figures is surprising. Could it mean the results will be hit even harder than expected by provisions? Or is it another sign the deck is being cleared for that BAe deal?

There is, after all, a strong case to be made for a GEC/BAe merger.

It always seemed that in the Weinstock years GEC was happy to negotiate with BAe when it was flying high; once it got to a position of strength it was less keen on the deal. Perhaps Mr Simpson is more sympathetic to a merger with

a much more muscular, although still much smaller, group.

This month GEC shares have performed strongly, even shrugging off the impact of the ever more powerful pound. In what can only be described as a highly volatile, topsy-turvy market the electronic giant's performance indicates the expectation that Mr Simpson will have something rather more interesting than dull, little-changed figures to talk about tomorrow.

The blue chip reaction to the Budget, with Footsie romping to new peaks, has clearly been generated by something more than relief over the Brown measures.

Desperate trading resulting from derivative operations seems largely responsible.

For the second and third-liners it has all been a non-event. The FTSE 250 index, covering the 250 shares immediately outside Footsie, and

the FTSE SmallCap index have continued to look neglected. However, here is talk that when the current turmoil is over attention could switch to the non-Footsie stocks.

After all, many blue chips are looking decidedly expensive and cash-rich institutions could feel obliged to gather in some of the valuation bargains now lurking in the lower reaches of the market.

Company results are again in short supply this week. Tomkins, the last of the great conglomerates to remain content with its rag-bag lot, should demonstrate today that its bums to guns mixture is still working. Year's figures should emerge at £430m, up from £322.9m.

Dissons, the electrical retailer, is another with year's results. The market looks for around £196m against £139.2m on Wednesday.

Marston Thompson & Evershed, the Pedigree bitter

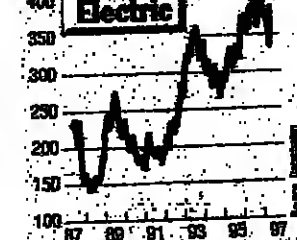
brewer, is among the smaller companies in the reporting frame. A £2m year's gain to £29.5m seems likely.

Unfortunately for Marston, sales of traditional bitters are under renewed pressure and although it is ambitiously building its retail spread it has yet to achieve the power of Greene King, which paid £197.5m for the Magic Pub Co and last month rolled out a near-50 per cent profit increase.

The Pedigree group is striving to increase its presence in the more trendy areas of drink retailing. Last year it splashed out an astonishing £19.95m for the seven-strong Pictorial Piano chain. It has increased its P&P spread but is unlikely to be reaping outstanding rewards from its retail excursion.

Others reporting year's profits include Badgers supermarket chain where £9.2m against £7.9m is likely and property group Helical Bar, marginally higher at £9.1m.

Share spotlight



Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling pence where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: r Ex rights • Ex dividend • Ex all ex Unlisted Securities Market • S Suspended • P Parity Paid up • N Paid Shares • A All Stock

Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange. Simply dial 0891 123 335, and when prompted to enter the 4-digit code printed next to each share, to access the latest financial reports of the 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FTSE 100 - Real-time 00
UK Stock Market Report 01
UK Company News 02
Foreign Exchange 03
Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use the service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 071 673 4376 (9.00am - 5.00pm). Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Interest Rates

	UK	Germany	France	Italy	Spain	Japan
Bank of England	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Discount	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Overnight	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%
Three months	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%
Six months	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
One year	4.75%	4.75%	4.75%	4.75%	4.75%	4.75%
Two years	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Three years	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%
Five years	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Ten years	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%

Telecommunications

Textiles & Apparel

Tobacco

Transport

Water

Support Services

Pharmaceuticals

Printing & Paper

Property

Life Assurance

Media

Investment Companies

Leisure & Hotels

Investment Trusts

Gas Distribution

Health Care

Household Goods

Insurance

Building Materials

Chemicals

Government Securities

Mediums

Longs

Shorts

Unlisted

Index-linked

Government Securities

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business & city

Business news desk: tel 0171 293 2636 fax 0171 293 2096
BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

£100m shock for National Power as judge re-opens hearing

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

National Power could face a bill for more than £100m after a High Court judge decided to re-open a landmark court case over the way electricity companies removed surplus cash from their pension funds.

Mr Justice Robert Walker has taken the almost unprecedented step of converting a further hearing into the case in the High

Court, starting today, despite having ruled last month that the use of pension surpluses to help fund redundancy programmes by National Power and National Grid was legal.

His earlier decision, which bitterly disappointed pensioners, overturned a historic judgment by the Pensions Ombudsman, who ordered the Grid to repay £46m into its pension scheme. The money, which formed part of a £62m surplus

identified by actuaries in 1992, was used to pay for more generous early retirement benefits.

National Power would have had to pay back more than £200m into its pension scheme if it had lost the original hearing. It joined the Grid's case in a pre-emptive move to clarify the legislation, after the Ombudsman said the rules of the Electricity Supply Pensions Scheme, the industry-wide umbrella fund, specifically out-

lawed payments to the employer. The entire industry could have been forced to repay more than £1bn.

The judge agreed to re-open the hearing last week after solicitors representing National Power pensioners discovered what they claimed was a flaw in his original ruling.

Angela Dimsdale-Gill, from solicitors Lovell White Durrant, said the decision to re-open the hearing was virtually unpre-

cedented. "We are having a hearing to explore what we believe is a fundamental flaw in the judgment."

Though solicitors acting for Grid pensioners were watching the developments closely, the company was not directly involved.

The new claim centres on National Power's decision to inject extra cash into the pension scheme in instalments, to pay for its redundancy programme

after privatisation. The move, at a time when its scheme was in deficit, enabled the company to spread the cost over several years. By 1992 it had left National Power owing its pension fund a further £58.7m.

When a £303m surplus was identified in same year, the company used part of the cash to set against these outstanding liabilities. It emerged during the hearing that the scheme's trustees were not consulted on

the company's decision to pay by instalments. An elected trustee told the hearing that the trustees were "simply informed" of National Power's decision.

Though Mr Justice Walker found against the Ombudsman in his judgment last month, he highlighted the issue of instalments payments, which he described as an "irregularity". However, he said the issue was overtaken by the discovery of

such big surpluses in 1992 and again in 1995.

Lawyers for National Power pensioners will argue in court today that the company did not gain permission from the Inland Revenue when it allocated the surplus to cover its outstanding bill.

Lovell White Durrant said its calculations suggested National Power could have to repay £100m if the judge found in the pensioners' favour.

Woolwich debut to net £5bn

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Around 2.5 million Woolwich members will share in the latest windfall bonanza today as the building society abandons 150 years of mutualism and converts to a £5bn bank.

City analysts expect the shares to start trading at around 320p-330p this morning, valuing the minimum 450-share allocation at £1,440-£1,485. The average allocation of 657 shares would be worth up to £2,165.

The pricing is almost double the figure predicted when Woolwich announced its conversion plans 18 months ago. Its stock market capitalisation of £500-plus will put the company in the top 50 of the FTSE 100. However, its entry to the blue-chip league will be delayed until September to allow institutions time to build up their weightings in the stock.

IG Index, which has been running a grey market in the stock, predicts a closing price of 330p-338p today.

Coming after the Halifax float just a month ago, the potentially inflationary effects of another multi-billion windfall is likely to put further pressure on the Bank of England to raise interest rates while its monetary policy panel meets on Wednesday.

Following last week's Budget, which did not attempt to rein in consumer spending as much as predicted, City commentators expect at least a quarter-point rise in base rates from their current level of 6.5 per cent.

Just over 23 per cent of Woolwich members have opted

to sell their entitlement immediately while a further 300,000 have yet to claim their free shares. Members who return their forms by tomorrow will receive their shares within five working days.

Woolwich plans a day of celebrations to mark its new status. While the directors will be at the bank's brokers, BZW, to watch the start of trading, staff at the headquarters in Berdelybeath, Kent, are being treated to a special float day lunch.

Speculation about a possible takeover of Woolwich being played down yesterday, "Speculation has been rife about financial institution mergers over the last few months and we don't comment on these rumours," a spokesman said.

Woolwich says it did not receive a single takeover approach during the entire 18 months of float preparation. Though there has been talk of takeover interest by rivals such as Midland or Lloyds TSB, analysts reckon the huge surge in the valuation of Woolwich will act as a deterrent.

Some analysts have tipped Woolwich shares to rise to 350p-370p. But others say the flotation of Halifax represented the high water mark for the financial sector. Halifax shares, which started trading at 775p, have dipped as low as 724.5p since deals started. On Friday they closed up 8p at 775.5p.

The first auction of Woolwich shares takes place tonight. Members who have chosen to sell their entitlement will receive the average of the prices in the four auctions and the proceeds by 18 July.

IN BRIEF

• National Westminster Bank yesterday dismissed as "market speculation" suggestions that it had held talks with the UK's biggest insurer, the Prudential, over a link-up that would create an organisation controlling some 10 per cent of the UK's fund management business. NatWest also played down rumours that the newly floated Halifax might be considering a takeover approach. NatWest denied that its NatWest Markets arm could face another multi-million pound loss following the £77m "black hole" in its interest rate options division.

• Waterstones, the bookselling chain owned by WH Smith, is to open 50 new, smaller-format bookshops over the next few years, bringing the UK total to 150. It is targeting towns such as Altrincham, Bury St Edmunds and Rugby where research has shown a demand for smaller 2,500 sq ft stores.

• Johnston Press, the UK's fifth-largest regional newspaper group has identified a successor to Fred Johnston who retires from his role as executive chairman in September. Tim Bowdler, group managing director, will become chief executive. Mr Johnston, a member of the family which owns 28 per cent of the company, is likely to remain non-executive chairman until the end of 2000.

• The privatisation of France Telecom could go ahead after all, according to a senior member of the ruling Socialist party yesterday. Claude Bartolone said the government should "take a look" at privatisation if employees gained job guarantees and cash raised was used to fund state work programmes.

• Banks experience less than half the success of building societies in selling household insurance to their mortgage customers, according to a survey conducted by accountants KPMG.

Six years and a day after BCCI's collapse, protesters still haunt Touche Ross



A delegation of former employees and creditors of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International staged a demonstration outside the bank's liquidators, Touche Ross, yesterday - six years and a day after the BCCI collapse. The delegation, led by Leicester East MP Keith Vaz, handed in a letter of protest about

the liquidator's actions. Mr Vaz said these had included the issue of 500 letters to 300 employees of the former bank, seeking the repayment of mortgages. The letter also complained about the costs incurred in the liquidation and the time taken for compensation to be paid to victims.

Mr Vaz said: "It is appalling that the victims... cannot even obtain information about the progress of the liquidation." He added that he would raise the matter in Parliament today, asking Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, to intervene.

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathiga

Budget fuels mis-selling debate

Nic Cicutti
Personal Finance Editor

Insurance companies may have to pay hundreds of millions of pounds more compensation to victims of the pension mis-selling scandal in the wake of the Government's withdrawal of ACT credits from pension schemes, it emerged yesterday. Bills will soar because the cost of any compensation payable is linked to the benefits pensioners would expect to receive at retirement.

Employers who run schemes based on final salaries at retirement face increases of up to 1 per cent a year in their payroll costs as a result of the abolition of ACT credit.

Some insurers who wrongly persuaded people to leave generous employer-run schemes have offered to match the same benefits at retirement.

They could be forced to stump up the same amount for

20 or even 25 years, in effect costing them 30 per cent or more in extra bills.

One company that has pushed for "guarantees" to be used more widely within the industry is Legal & General, which has about 26,000 pension mis-selling cases under review. A spokesman for the company said: "We are aware of the issue. [Heavier costs] are a possibility but our technical people are looking at the matter now."

The Association of British Insurers (ABI), the trade body trying to co-ordinate the efforts of its members in resolving the mis-selling scandal, said: "We are aware of this and are trying to resolve the matter. It certainly is another complication."

In addition, fears were raised last night that many pension fund trustees faced with requests to reinstate former members into their schemes right away would be far more reluctant to agree because of the

extra costs involved in meeting any guarantees involving final salary at retirement.

Matthew Demwell, a spokesman for the Association of Consulting Actuaries (ACA), said: "Schemes which are looking at reinstatement in the near future will have to think hard whether to accept them. If I



Hornet's nest: Gordon Brown has ruffled insurers

were advising trustees, I would have to tell them to look for higher amounts than before the Budget."

One independent expert, who declined to be named, predicted that the tough negotiations now certain to take place between insurers and pension funds would probably delay even further the compensation process, which has already lasted more than two years.

He said: "Having thrown a spanner in the works of the compensation process, the Government will then blame the industry for not sorting it out quickly enough."

The ACA is also concerned at the way the abolition of ACT credits has in effect skewed down earnings assumptions which led to the carefully devised rebate payments for opting out of the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme, Serps.

In April, the Government announced changes to the rebate system, designed to encourage Serps opt-outs and minimise its long-term spending bill.

The rebates range between 3.88 per cent of earnings for 16-year-olds to 9.48 per cent for those aged 46 or over.

Rebate levels were calculated by the Government Actuaries Department (GAD), which based its figures on certain assumptions about stock market growth in the next 40 years. These did not include the abolition of ACT credits, predicted to knock up to 1 per cent per year off share price values.

Mr Demwell said: "Anyone opting out has been retrospectively misled. If the GAD had known at the time what was likely to happen, the rebate figures would have had to be different. The Government has changed the terms of the rebate. This is not fair."

Railtrack quizzed over £46m 'weather' provision

Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

Railtrack, the owner of Britain's track, signalling and stations, has been asked by the rail regulator's office to explain a £46m provision made in its accounts.

John Swift QC, the rail regulator, wrote last week to John Edmunds, the company's chief executive, asking him to explain why Railtrack had set aside so much for "severe weather and other matters". According to sources close to the rail regulator, the letter asks the company to "furnish Mr Swift with a detailed breakdown of the provision".

In 1996, Railtrack set aside only £20m to cover poor weather conditions. A spokesman said that executives would meet Mr Swift later this month to discuss the provision. "We have never had to put money away for weather payments before and it is difficult to judge what is needed."

Railtrack says rural train services have recently been hit by "terrible flooding". If this was to happen on a busy commuter service, the spokesman said, it would "cost the company a lot of money".

The regulator has expressed concerns that the performance regime may be tilted too far in Railtrack's favour and has singled out the bonus payments as costing the train operators too much.

The track company managed to extract an extra £270m in supplementary charges paid in ever diminishing amounts until 2001 from the Government after claiming it faced onerous risks under the performance regime.

However, under the performance regime in 1996 the company made a profit of £21m. In 1997, Railtrack trebled that to £76m despite more than doubling the amount set aside to cover bad weather.

Privately many train company executives have been appalled by the provision. "It looked very strange that Railtrack more than doubled its poor weather provision. A cynic might point out it was trying to keep profits down to avoid confrontation with the Government," one company director said.

Barclays ballot threatens new strike

Chris Godsmark

Efforts by Barclays to overhaul staff pay structures face a severe test from today when almost 40,000 employees are balloted by unions on strike action.

The bank's staff union, Unifi, and the banking union, Bifu, claim the changes will leave half the 50,000 employees affected with no annual salary increase. The bank planned to introduce annual bonuses based on performance targets, while unions said staff would ultimately lose Christmas bonuses worth 2.5

per cent of salary. If the employees vote for strikes it will increase the possibility of a summer of union disruption from public and private sector workers. British Airways cabin crews appear set for a three-day stoppage from Wednesday after talks between management and unions collapsed yesterday.

Last month Unifi, which represents two-thirds of Barclays' staff, held a consultative ballot on the proposals which showed nearly 9 out of 10 employees opposed the changes.

Today's ballots, which will

continue until 24 June, will ask staff whether they want to stage a series of two or three-day strikes and an overtime ban.

If the vote goes in favour of the unions the strikes could start in early August. Bifu predicted the disruption would be more damaging for the bank than the series of one-day strikes over pay in 1995.

Jim Lowe, Bifu's assistant secretary, said the proposals were threatening thousands of staff with a pay standstill. "They've offered a two to three year transition period as a concession but

this is no pot of gold. A cashier could lose £10,000 over 10 years."

Barclays, which made profits last year of £2.4bn, has claimed the new pay structure will reward good performance. But according to unions 25,000 staff could see annual increases based solely on performance bonuses. Once staff members reach a pay ceiling, Bifu claims, they will be excluded from the annual pay round.

"One of the long term effects of this policy will be to drastically cut pensions, which are linked to salary," said Mr Lowe.

STOCK MARKETS									
FTSE 100									
Index	4812.80	+172.5	+3.7	4831.70	-4956.60	3.39			
FTSE 250	4453.00	+7.0	+0.2	4729.40	4431.30	3.72			
FTSE 350	2111.30	+67.9	+3.0	2350.80	2017.90	3.45			
FTSE SmallCap	2228.62	+6.5	+0.3	2374.20	2175.20	3.18			
FTSE All-Share	2260.81	+61.5	+2.8	2269.36	1899.70	3.42			
New York	7958.81	+208.1	+2.7	7895.81	5932.94	1.87			
Tokyo	19988.00	-555.8	-2.7	20861.07	17303.85	0.797			
Hong Kong	14822.97	-373.8	-2.5	15196.79	12085.17	2.861			
Frankfurt	3942.53	+147.1	+3.9	3942.53	2848.77	1.411			

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
UK interest rates									
Bank of England base rate	6.50%								
3 month	6.75%								
6 month	6.75%								
12 month	6.75%								
US interest rates									
Bank of England base rate	5.25%								
3 month	5.25%								
6 month	5.25%								
12 month	5.25%								
Money Market Rates									
3 month	6.75%								
6 month	6.75%								
12 month	6.75%								
Bond Yields %									
UK	6.75%								
US	5.25%								
Japan	0.66%								
Germany	3.31%								
MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
Rises - Top 3									
European Plc/SA	75	12	19.0	Coates Vielle	106.5	22	17.1		
Capita Group	287.5	39	17.1	Paton	347.5	53.5	15.3		
Railtrack Group	706.5	90	14.6	GN	920	127	12.1		

CURRENCIES									
Pound vs.									
US	1.6677	+2.56c	1.5603						
DM	1.6645	+2.0c	1.5595						
Y (London)	2.9801	+7.41c	2.9770						
Y (London)	191.780	+1.405	172.213						
Y (London)	113.640	-70.905	110.375						
Y (London)	104.0	+2.2	86.8						
Dollar vs.									
US	0.5925	-0.91	0.6409						
DM	0.5936	-0.70	0.6416						
Y (London)	1.7338	+1.78c	1.8235						
Y (London)	109.7	+2.56c	107.0						
Y (London)	102.4	-0.2	97.2						
OTHER INDICATORS									
Oil Brent	18.27	+0.36	19.51						
Gold	324.50	-12.05	381.23						
Gold	192.27	-10.21	244.33						
RPI	156.9	+0.38p	150.9						
GDP	109.7	+2.56c	107.0						
Base Rates	-	-	8.80c						

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Brown's stance tougher than markets realise



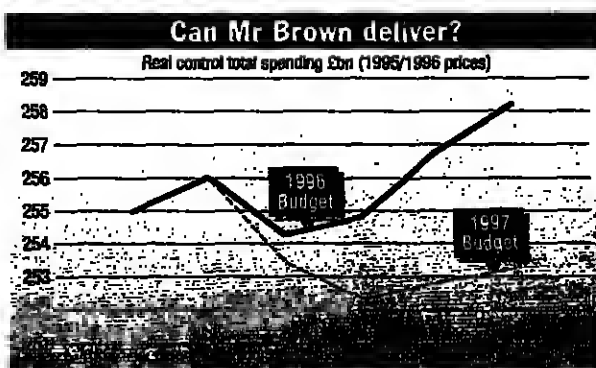
GAVYN DAVIES

All the lessons of the 1950s - 1970s, which demonstrated that fiscal fine-tuning was at best a difficult art, seem to have been forgotten in the stampede towards the conventional wisdom that higher taxes are essential to manage demand in 1997.

Gordon Brown's first Budget has been criticised in the City for failing to tighten the fiscal stance sufficiently, since most of the tax increases imposed - notably the windfall tax on the utilities and the dividend tax - will raise revenue without restraining demand. As far as it goes, this criticism is valid, since if we take the Budget package in isolation, the impact on short-run demand will be minimal. But, as this column has been arguing for months, the Chancellor was never going to be able to control consumer demand this year through tax increases. This was never politically feasible, and probably not desirable. Nor did he ever suggest he was intending to undertake short-term fiscal interventionism. His objective was to rebalance the economy in the long term, not the day-after-tomorrow. But where critics have really missed the point is that they have overlooked the fact there was already a substantial fiscal tightening built into the pre-Budget baseline arithmetic, taking effect each year over the medium term. When Gordon Brown agreed to stick to Ken Clarke's spending baseline for two years, he imposed on the system a fiscal tightening much higher than anything anyone has recommended should take place in the Budget. Yet this is barely acknowledged in the public debate. In fact, because Mr Brown has left the spending totals unchanged in nominal terms while lifting inflation forecasts, the projected level of real spending next year is 1.5 per cent lower than Mr Clarke's baseline; the result is a tightening in the underlying fiscal stance of around 2 per cent of GDP in the next two years.

It is unclear whether those arguing for yet more fiscal agony are saying this planned tightening may not take place, or that it is insufficient, or that they have simply forgotten about it. In fact, the whole debate surrounding the Budget has, in many ways, been quite extraordinary - conducted in some kind of 1960s time warp, recalling the grand old days of Keynesian fine-tuning, with virtually no new frills attached. All the lessons of the 1950s - 1970s, which demonstrated that fiscal fine-tuning was at best a difficult art, seem to have been forgotten in the stampede towards the conventional wisdom that higher taxes are essential to manage demand in 1997. It is worth restating why this conventional wisdom is not quite as self-evident as others believe. First, it is logically required, under the case for fiscal fine-tuning, that tax increases introduced today should be reversed later when consumers' expenditure has slowed down. Thus, those commentators who argue in favour of tax increases to slow the economy today should want tax cuts in a couple of years as the economy slows. But temporary variations in taxation of this type do not change the household sector's estimates of its permanent income, and since consumption mainly depends on permanent rather than transitory income, such temporary tax changes may have little effect on the profile for aggregate demand. Empirical work that attempts to

measure directly the impact of variations in taxation on demand has found it surprisingly difficult to detect any consistent impact at all. Second, there is the question of flexibility. Even if fiscal fine-tuning can affect the timing of demand, it is by no means clear tax policy can be changed sufficiently rapidly, or sufficiently often, to make it a suitable instrument for fine-tuning in this manner. Interest rates can be changed 12 times a year, or more if necessary. Taxes can be changed but once a year, and with long lead times at that. Past experience has demonstrated quite clearly that tax changes tend to occur much too late to have the desired impact on demand. Studies in the 1950s and 1960s commonly showed that fiscal policy made the economic cycle worse, because tax changes typically took effect only after the economy had naturally started to move in the opposite direction from that expected by the Treasury. There was clearly a risk that this would happen again, with the bulk of any effect of higher taxes on consumers expenditure coming next year, by which time the economy may already be slowing down.



Third, there is the question of scale. On Goldman Sachs' models, it would take at least a £9bn consumer tax increase to reduce the upward pressure on base rates by 1 percentage point. In the Budget run-up, no one seemed to be arguing for anything remotely on this scale. In fact, there was a severe risk that small tax increases on the consumer would be said to obviate the need for any further base rate rises, leaving the overall policy tightening insufficient to slow demand. For example, the CBI has argued for £2bn tax increases in the Budget, claiming that this should replace base rate rises. But a £2bn increase in income tax would reduce the upward pressure on base rates by only 0.25 per cent. Very few, if any, of the enthusiasts for consumer tax increases have been honest enough to ask for increases of a scale sufficient to make much difference to the interest rate path. It is easy, in putting these arguments, to be accused of not caring about the overvaluation of the exchange rate, or about the temporary squeeze on exporters which this involves. This accusation is simply absurd. Of course, it would be far better to avoid periods of exchange rate

overvaluation if this were possible, and the point should be freely acknowledged. However, the problem inherited by the new Government is one of excess consumers' expenditure, generated by a period of overly lax monetary policy, and by the building society windfalls that probably could have been prevented by the previous chancellor, but were not. It so happens the problem has been made worse by the opposite set of circumstances in Germany - inadequate domestic demand, and cyclical downward pressure on interest rates. In extricating the economy from this problem, it has always seemed likely that monetary policy would have to be the prime instrument of stabilisation since, for the reasons outlined above, fiscal policy would not be able to meet the challenge. The rise in sterling is an unwelcome consequence of the necessary monetary tightening. But it is better in control inflation than in control the exchange rate, as Nigel Lawson discovered in 1988. Having failed in their quest for consumer tax increases in the Budget, the City critics have turned their attention to base rates, with several saying a half-point rise is likely this week. But what they may be overlooking is the extent of the deflationary drag which the exchange rate is now imparting on the economy. If sterling stays at present levels, Goldman Sachs reckon this drag will be worth 2.3 per cent of GDP by the end of next year - much higher than anything that could conceivably have been done in the Budget. Is this not enough to be going on with?

Windfalls and property demand provide shot in arm for DIY sales

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Do-it-yourself retailers have enjoyed their best year since the 1980s housing boom, according to a new report by retail consultants Verdict Research. The report predicts that the DIY market will grow even stronger over the next two years, boosted by building society windfalls and a buoyant housing market.

Verdict says that the value of spending on DIY last year reached its highest level since 1988.

It adds that the DIY market was worth £10.9bn in 1995 and that growth outstripped all retail sales trends.

The report states: "The upturn in consumer spending

and the housing market has made the outlook for the remainder of 1997 and into 1998 far better than at any other time this decade."

Verdict's Clive Vaughan added: "We think a lot of the windfall gains will be spent on enhancing properties, building extensions and so on. The

whole building trade should benefit."

However, the report warns that the longer-term outlook is less certain due to rising interest rates and the possible demise of Miras, which was cut in the Chancellor's Budget last week. The report also warns of a potential north-south split as the

southern housing market continues to boom.

The report backs up bullish sales trends announced recently by leading DIY groups such as B&Q. At the end of May B&Q said like-for-like sales in the 13 weeks to 3 May were 14.4 per cent ahead of the same period last year.

Verdict says that with the DIY market plagued by overcapacity these sectors would continue to polarise, with the large DIY chains expanding at the expense of lesser names and smaller independents.

The report shows that last year B&Q increased its share of the DIY market from 15 to 15.8 per cent, while Sainsbury's Homebase and Wickes also grew their share. Rivals with weaker brands, such as Do It All and F&S, saw their market share fall.

Percentage share of DIY market					
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
B&Q	14.6	15.0	14.9	15.0	15.8
Homebase	3.3	3.6	3.9	4.2	4.5
Wickes	9.6	9.0	8.1	6.7	5.9
Do It All	2.8	3.0	3.8	4.5	4.9
Great Mills	5.6	5.1	4.5	4.0	3.7
AG Stanley	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.7
Focus	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3
Total	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.2
	40.7	40.7	40.6	39.6	39.8

Source: Verdict on DIY Retailers 1997.

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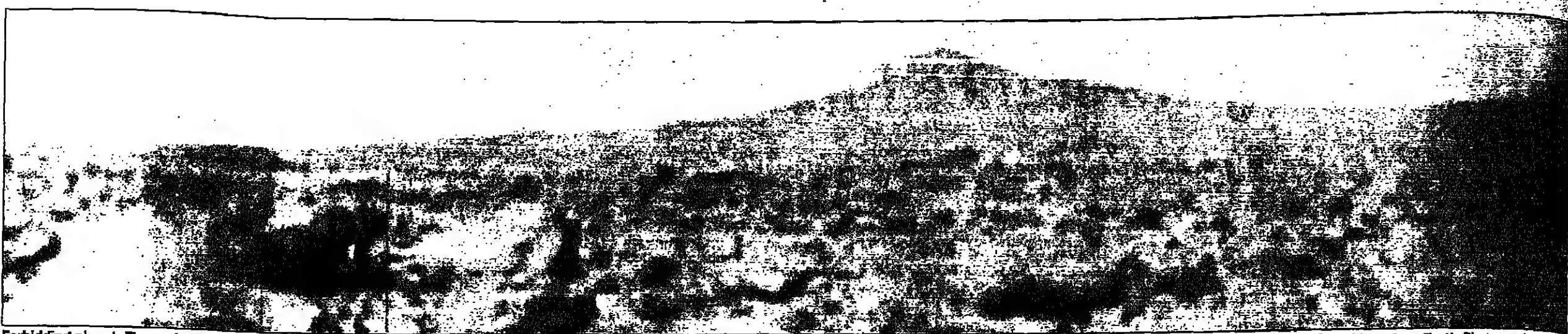
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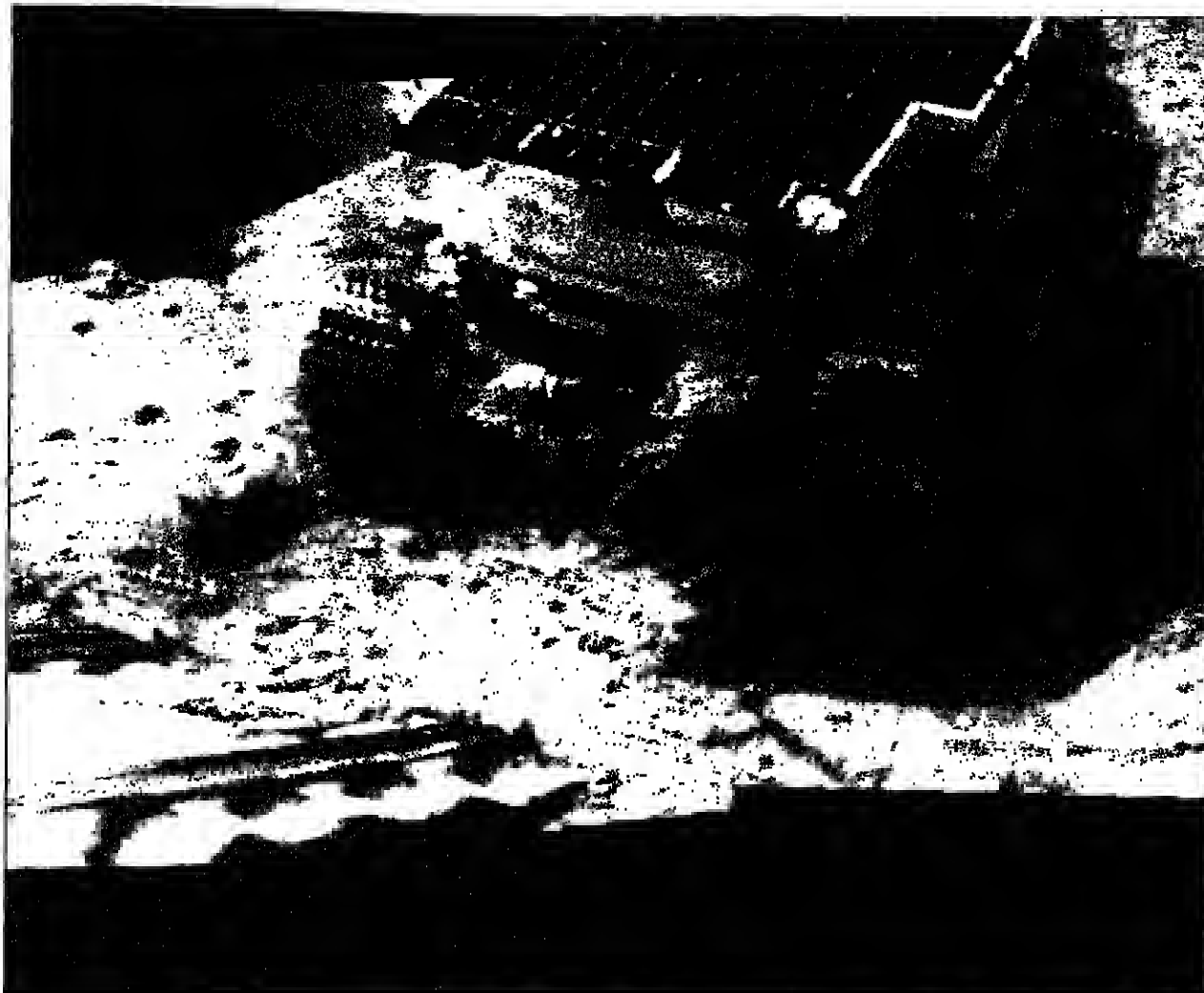
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news



Forbidding planet: The rock-strewn Martian landscape (above) as photographed by Sojourner, the rover vehicle seen below driving off the Pathfinder rocket ramp on to the surface of Mars, controlled by a 'driver' on Earth. Photographs: Nasa

A small roll for rover, a giant leap for mankind



Lander vehicle takes high-quality pictures which are relayed back to Earth along with data from rover

Two cameras on front of rover give 3-D pictures of rocks in path as it moves along at 0.02 mph

At night Sojourner and lander shut down to conserve power; in daylight recharge batteries from the sun

Titanium-wheeled rover, guided by remote control from Earth, moves over terrain and examines rocks using built-in X-ray "sniffer" expected to survive 7 days in temperatures of -88°C to 0°C

It might not seem that important: at 6.46 BST yesterday morning, an electric-powered car about the size of a microwave oven was halfway down a ramp; by 6.59 it was off it. But the cheers and roars from the 70 scientists greeting the news that "the rover is on the surface of Mars" were entirely in keeping with the occasion.

For this could be the future of successful, affordable space exploration. It could be the prototype of how we search for life in the solar system.

The vehicle, called Sojourner, has already left its mark: a track from its six studded titanium wheels. Never before has a vehicle been driven on another planet. "Six wheels on the ground," reported flight director Chris Salvo as the signal came in. The response was ecstatic.

An hour after the vehicle moved off the ramp, the sun went down, and Sojourner was left parked overnight on the Martian soil. Guided by lasers, and feeding back stereoscopic pictures to a "driver" at mission control at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California, it was waiting yesterday for the sun to rise. The Martian day is just 34 minutes

As tiny titanium wheels churn the Martian soil, their tracks show space explorers the way to go. **Charles Arthur reports**

longer than Earth's, and is presently synchronised roughly with time on the west coast of the United States.

Scientists were preparing to explore the area around the Pathfinder rocket, using the rover's ability to chemically "sniff" rocks with its X-ray spectrometer, and to examine the solidity of the soil. Such examinations will go on for at least

a week while the lander takes high-resolution photographs.

Even so, after the first two nights, few of the 700 fingernails at JPL mission control will have survived unbroken. First there was the nerve-racking landing on Friday night, plummeting to the surface at 600mph. Then there was the three-hour wait to see if the lander had been damaged. It turned out to be fine. But

getting the rover off the lander proved troublesome. By Saturday morning, the airbags which helped the lander survive impact had not deflated. That was overcome by lifting the "petals" of the lander up and down.

Then, more seriously, the computers on the rover and on the lander refused to talk to each other. Without that link, the solar-powered Sojourner could not be controlled from Earth, though it could have performed a two-day pre-programmed sequence of investigations.

On Sunday night, after much anguish, the problem was solved, as are so many terrestrial computer problems, by turning the misbehaving components off and then on again. The controllers were relieved. "We feel like we've been invited back to the party," said rover operator Matt Wallace.

Scientists will use the rover's first few days on Mars to learn how to handle the vehicle. There is an time delay of almost 11 minutes before the signal reaches the driver on Earth from the vehicle on Mars. So even though it moves at only 0.02 mph, about half an inch per second, the delay means that in the time it takes to see an event and to react to

it, the rover will travel more than 53 feet. Thus the experience for the driver will be rather like trying to pick sites of interest while zipping along a motorway.

The significance of the Sojourner's little trundle lies in the possibilities it opens. Pathfind-

er is the first of a series of low-cost missions planned by the US space agency Nasa. With a budget of only \$266m (£166m), it is a far cheaper method of exploration than putting people—who need food, water and air—into rockets. "This really strengthens

the case for unmanned missions," said Sir Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal of Britain.

But even the Martian adventure may pale beside planned expeditions to take samples from passing comets, and even to dig beneath the surface of Europa,

an icy moon of Jupiter, to look for signs of vestigial life.

As increasingly "intelligent" systems are designed, machines will be able to do the searching. Providing, of course, that they are able to reboot themselves in times of trouble.

Repair success for Mir crew

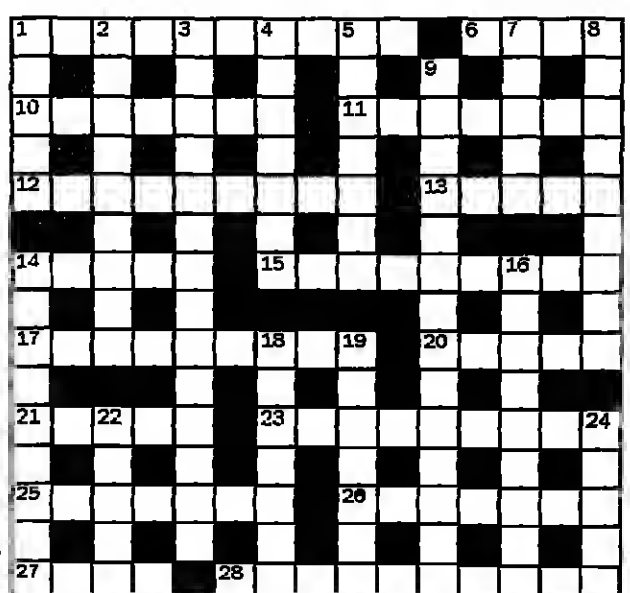
Moscow (Reuters) — The Russian-United States crew aboard the crippled Mir station had some good news yesterday, after the space collision on 25 June which led to the greatest danger to the station in its 11-year history.

A mission control expert said that Mir's navigation problem had been fixed and its gyroscopes — which keep solar panels lined up with the Sun to gain maximum power — were now working. An official said later that the crew had spent the day gathering strength for this morning's docking of a supply ship which is bringing equipment to help them fix the station's damaged power supply.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3344, Monday 7 July

By Porcia



ACROSS
1 I shouldn't worry about American appearing (10)
6 Impressive part of the picture (4)
10 Fold over tenor's old jacket (7)
11 Foreign name for single flowering plant (7)
12 Artist has ample but starts off being greedy (9)

13 Make sense of total (3,2)
14 Scored all at once (5)
15 Team leader drove play bus (9)
17 Certainty of producing eight runs (4,5)
20 Range includes new bowl (5)
21 Flash of talent, say (5)
23 Is including alternative chapter on ghostbusters (9)

25 Concerned with a question of fieldwork (7)
26 Number 1 prepared containing vitamin drink (7)
27 Note Greek character is without mount (4)
28 Hear then if organisation is for German physicist (10)

DOWN
1 Regulate charge (5)
2 Instrumentalist getting the bird (9)
3 Hot spot? It's a promising situation (1,5,2,3,3)
4 Tried moving round in the Northern US city (7)
5 Port stains initially washed out with water (7)
7 Standing out for United director (5)
8 Pale actor's make-up for Shakespearian role (9)
9 Multi-cultural guy? (11,3)
14 Time to demand power for special unit (4,5)
16 Exaggerate ruler's position (9)
18 Lethargy apparent in irate outburst (7)
19 Dog fish (7)
22 Opera bearing the name of an Irish saint (5)
24 Audibly entranced by bouquet (5)

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